Republic of Iretand 65p:

### Hope pledges faith at York Minster



Amazing grace: The Right Rev David Hope kneels during his enthronement as Archbishop of York yesterday at nster. He succeeds Dr Habgood to the second most important post in the Church of England Photograph: PA

# Angry Major turns heat on Adams

'A man of peace or spokesman for terrorism?'

for refusing to give up weapons.

publican paramilitary leadership

of delivering a "slap in the

face" to the rising peace hopes

combining movement towards

full talks with arms decommis-

sioning, overseen by a interna-

President Bill Clinton last week

Mr Major said: "The message

of all those people to the para-

militaries was that their day was

over and that now was the time

lence forever and make peace."

Mr Adams. Does be believe

what he has been saying or has

he been trying to deceive peo-

ple? We'll soon know," he told

reporters in his Huntingdon

straightforward spokesman for

This is a moment of trial for

tional commission.

would be maintained.

Unionists claimed the IRA statement had effectively killed

of the people.

He angrily accused the Re-

DONALD MACINTYRE

John Major yesterday reworded IRA pledge not to "surrender its arms by challenging the Sinn Fein President. Gerry Adams, to decide whether he was now a man of peace or the straightforward spokesman of

a terrorist organisation".

But although Mr Major hit back angrily at an IRA statement rejecting the British Govto begin handing over its arms. as a precondition to all-party talks, both governments vesterday agreed to press ahead with plans for a "twin-track" approach to preliminary talks on arms and the politicial future of Northern Ireland.

The IRA statement represented an affirmation of its previously-stated insistence that decommissioning could only happen after political negotia-tions and not before.

This position appeared to have been directed largely towards the international body on decommissioning, headed by the former US Senator George Mitchell, which is due to start work in New York this weekend.

It did not, however, rule out the Mitchell commission and in fact. Sinn Fein has confirmed it will send a delegation to meet the international body.

This was crucial for the work of the commission, since its deliberations would have been close to meaningless in the ab-sence of any Republican input.

constituency.
"Gerry Adams had better make up his mind what he The Taoiseach, John Bruton, said he understood Sinn wants, Is Gerry Adams the man Fein would speak to the inwho wants to bring peace to ternational body on the issue of Northern Ireland or is he a

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said said his party's po-sition was unchanged by the gent statements and putting a IRA statement, which he debottleneck in the way of scribed as "restating the obvious and widely acknowledged The IRA has refused from reality of the current situathe start to hand over weapons

tion". He said everyone, inand few in London or Dublin cluding Mr Major and Unionist were surprised at the defiant naleaders, "knows that none of the ture of the new statement. The message, released in Dublin, said: "There is no quesarmed groups is prepared to disarm at this time". The Prime Minister chal-lenged Sinn Fein to show its true tion of the IRA meeting the lu-dicrous demand for a surrender of IRA weapons either through colours and denounce the IRA

the front or the back door." But ministers believe the pressure is now on Sinn Fein to find a way around the logjam caused by the stockpile of IRA weapons, with Whitehall sources again insisting that the British Government was not demanding the surrender of arms.

off the "twin-track" approach of Sinn Fein negotiator Martin cGuinness added: "What the British Government is demanding is the humiliation and However, London and Dublin insisted the momensurrender of the IRA and I don't believe that is on offer." tum for peace triggered by the vast crowds which greeted US The mood in Dublin was

more conciliatory, with Mr Bruton refusing to be drawn into the argument and remaining con tident that Sinn Fein would discuss IRA guns with the international commission. "It is better to concentrate on

Fein stated that they will speak authoritatively to the international body on the issue of IRA weapons

But Dick Spring, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister, said: "We all saw what the people of Northern Ireland wanted last week in Derry and Bellast and also what the people in the Republic wanted. The opportunity is there for us and we have all got to take that."

Peace process, page 2

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Simon Hopkinson saves you from **Christmas** pudding



How to shine

**Damien Hirst:** How to follow a dead cow

### University threat to cut students

**DOUK HINDUL** 

Angry university vice-chancel-lors last night threatened to cut the number of university places next September unless the Govcrament reverses spending cuts

announced in the Budget. governors.

At a stormy meeting in Lon—Universities and colleges of the by Education Minister September they will have to Eric Forth which was to have been read by a senior civil servant hecause Mr Forth is ill.

They tore up the proposed agenda and several threatened to start charging students fees to make up the shortfall in funding caused by the cuts. They also agreed to back the introduction of a new type of student loans scheme under which 'option. Either we get more students would have to repay money for their tuition fees. At present students borrow moncy from the Government for their living costs but tuition fees are funded by the taxpayer.

The meeting of the Comnittee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals issued a statement saying that the Budget cuts of 31 per cent for building and equipment funds in one year were "catastrophic".



tary of State for Education, secured a better deal than last year for schools in the Budget at the expense of higher and further education. Ministers were anxious to stop a vigorous campaign against cuts by parents and

Universities and colleges raise a substantial proportion of money for huildings from private sources as part of the Treasury's Private Finance Ini-tiative. Professor Gareth Roberts, the committee's chairman, accused the Government of cowardice in refusing to con-sider a graduate contribution to tuition fees. Now we have no

we must reduce their numbers."

The committee refused to hear Tony Clarke, deputy secretary at the Department for Education and Employment, and sent him away with this message for Mrs Shephard: We are very concerned and upset over the severity of the Chancellor's statement, which we believe will have a catastrophic effect on universities in

money to reach our students or

The Private Finance Scheme that is not well established, and which has limited applicability, cannot possibly provide the essential resources we need for our buildings and equipment. Even those things ments we it could support cannot work income.

the income stream needed to support the PFI initiatives." Universities receive a fixed sum for each student. Any reduction in student numbers would have to be agreed with the Higher Education Funding Council, the quango that allocates funds

A council spokesman said its board would be meeting next week to consider its response to the Budget. Vice-chancellors will meet again next month to discuss cutting student numbers. The Department for Educa-

tion and Employment said: "It has been a tight public spend-ing settlement all round. Within higher education, capital funding has been reduced but current funding has been main-tained. The higher education sector has been vigorous in pursuing partnerships with the private sector. So far some £1.6 billion has been provided under

the Private Finance Initiative. No university is likely to go it alone and charge students fees but the committee's agreement to back loans for fees after years of indecision is significant. A Bill to privatise the student loans scheme is going through Parliament but it does not involve

loans for fees. The vice-chancellors' preferred scheme differs from the Government's because there would be no time limit for loan repayment and because repay-ments would vary according to

# Top scientist challenges official line on beef ...

Science Correspondent

The Government's top scientist on mad cow disease yesterday refused to support the advice of Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, that there s "no conceivable risk" of the

disease passing to humans.
"I freely admit that we cannot yet give anyone absolute guarantees," said Professor John Pattison, who chairs the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC). an eight-strong team of scientists advising government on the risks posed by mad cow disease,

or BSE, to humans. Asked if be could defend Mr Dorrell's statement, made earlier this week, Professor Pattison replied "No, it's not possible at this moment to give the proof there's no connection between BSE and human disease. Two independent consumer

groups, the Food Commission and the Consumers' Associaion, called for the committee of include consumer represen-tatives, and for its work to be made answerable to Parliament rather than ministers. At present, Mr Dorrell and Douglas Hogg, the minister of agricul-



ments to SEAC, and decide what action to take on its advice. Public anxiety that BSE could be passed to humans, causing its human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-

Jakob Disease (CJD), has grown in the past week. During that time, auction prices of British beef have fallen by about three per cent, and more than 1.150 schools have taken beef off their lunch menus. Yesterday local authorities were also advised by the Advi-

sury Body for Social Services catering to remove beef products such as beefburgers and sausages from child-care establishments. Despite growing concern, the CJD Surveillance unit, based in Edinburgh, told the Independent

the overall trend is downward. Deaths from CJD are expected to fall compared to 1994, when there were 56 cases. So far this year there have been 29 cases.

### ... as ostriches lay a golden egg

SIMON PINCOMBE

The collapse in beef prices could make Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber another fortune. The composer bas applied for permission to farm ostriches on his 4,000-acre Hampshire estate, which industry sources say could eventually be home for up o 100 birds.

The composer has been considering the project since he ate an ostrich steak in American restaurant. But the timing is seen as shrewd."It is an unpar-

alleled opportunity to provide the meat of the future." said Rohin Higgins of the Ostrich Farming Corporation.

This year Britons are expected to cat 904,000 tons of beef and yeal, a 25 per cent decline in consumption since 1976. And while ostrich meat is still an expensive novelty in Britain. costing between £9.95 and £15 a pound, farmers are reporting rocketing demand.

J Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda have all approached ostricb farmers, seeking an alternative meat, except salmon.

meat that has been humanely farmed. The problem is that there are no slaughterhouse facilities in the UK, which has kept the price of ostrich meat high.Sir Andrew has said he will breed birds and sell them but does not intend to send them directly to the slaughterhouse.

Ostriches are widely eaten in Belgium, France, Switzerland,

the US and Australia. The meat, which tastes like fillet steak, bas the lowest fat and cholesterol levels of any red, white or fish

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# Hurd defends funding public services

Political Editor

A powerful "one nation" call on the Tory party not to "slash hlindly at public services" in order to widen the gap between itself and Labour was launched yesterday by Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary.

Mr Hurd came strongly to the defence of Kenneth Clarke. the Chancellor, against rightwing critics of his Budget in a

way to challenging the growing mption among some senior Tories that the state needs to be dramatically "shrunk" to sustain

Mr Hurd acknowledged the desirability of cutting the "too high" rates of taxation. But he added in a speech in Bloxham, Oxfordshire, that only "among the unreal fevers of Westminster would it seem sensible medicine to sack more teachers

speech which also went a long in the cause of cutting taxes even

He declared: "A government which slashed hlindly at public services, pleading some abstract moral imperative or invoking a political need to put clear water between itself and its opponents, will not regain sympathy hut forfeit it."

Mr Hurd used all his authority as one of the most senior members of the Tory establishment to refute right-wing back-

benchers like David Evans, vice chairman of the 1922 Committee, who have claimed that Mr Clarke showed "no nose" for politics by failing to cut taxes and spending more deeply in last month's Budget.

But his speech will also be read as an important contribution to the continuing debate among Tory strategists over whether the party should swing to the right in order to beat off the challenge from a mod-

ernised Labour Party. Giving what amounts to firm advice that it should not, the former Foreign Secretary said that Britain needs to strike a "sensible balance" between "reataxation sonable "reasonable public services."

into unreality". Mr Hurd strongly criticised Labour for "proclaiming in the City of London" that they have

He warned the Tories would not

win the next election if "we rush

"every constituency" Labour spokesmen imply a commitment to more spending on public services. Mr Hurd said that Hugh Gaitskell lost the 1959 election because British voters saw through the same "contra-

But he also pointed out that the Citizen's Charter has actually increased public expectations of higher public services. He added: "If we can achieve growth in the economy at around 3 per cent a year and if we can keep the real increase in welfare expenditure at around I per cent then it is possible to sustain the essential services

and still reduce taxation." Mr Hurd said that "not even [Fidel] Castro" believes any more in the nostrum that "nationalisation, subsidies and high taxation" are the remedies for "inadequate" economic perfor-

#### INBRIEF read stabbed saving pupil

his life last night after being stabbed as he intervened in an alleged Triad gang attack on one

of his pupils. Philip Lawrence was knifed outside St George's school in Maida Vale, north London, when he tried to stop the gang bullying a boy. Christian Ocloo, 16,

said he saw Mr Lawrence "stag-gering back clutching his chest". The head was rushed to St Mary's Hospital and operated upon while his family waited outside the theatre. A hospital spokesman said his condition was "life-threatening".

#### Sex-trip laws

New laws to punish organisers of foreign child-sex trips were announced by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. Those found to have conspired or incited anyone to commit rane or to have sex with a girl under 13 abroad could be sentenced to life. Conspiracy to commit an indecent assault on a boy would attract a maximum 10 years, and with a child under 14, two years.

#### Vauxhall strike

The Vauxhall car group lost £3.65m worth of production after 8,000 workers began a strike over pay. The plants at Luton and Ellessnere Port shut two hours early yesterday.

recover

#### Royal secrets

Richard Stott, former editor of Today newspaper, delivered an "unequivocal apology" to the High Court for publishing extracts from The Housekeeper's Diary, by the Prince of Wales's former housekeeper on his wife.

#### Parkhurst security

The high-security Parkhurst jail on the Isle of Wight is to be downgraded to a category B. **Judge David Griffiths** 

In the Independent of 6 October 1995 we published a report about a court case at Winchester headed 'Judge attacked over sex case 'flower' remarks". We wish to make it clear that. His Honour Judge David Griffiths, who sits at Maidstone Crown Court, bad oo connection with this case.

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### Peace Process: The situation is 'desperate but not serious' Arms issue a symbol of lack of trust

DAVID MCKITTRICK Ireland correspondent

The condition of the Irish peace process, in the wake of Thursday's late-night IRA statement and yesterday's flurry of rhetoric, appears to conform to the old Belfast saying that things are desperate but not serious.

Ever since the IRA cessation declaration of August 1994, the neace has almost always seemed reasonably solid but never secure. Punishment beatings, for example, have provided regular reminders that the IRA and the loyalist paramilitary groups are still out there.

The arms de-commissioning issue, which was at the centre of vesterday's exchanges, has served as a symbol of the patent lack of trust among the participants in the peace process. It remains the case that after many months of argument no middle way has yet emerged to bridge the gulf between the government and the republicans.

The brief of the international body on de-commissioning, which is headed by former US Senator George Mitchell, is to attempt to reconcile the two positions and produce a report by mid-January. This is clearly a formidable task which will stretch the ingenuity of Senator Mitchell and his two colleagues, a Canadian and a Finn, to the limit. But in the meantime the peace process goes on and crucially, despite the impression given by some over-excited reporting yesterday, Sinn Fein have promised to cooperate fully with the Senator.

on this whole de-commissioning issue. We will try and deal peace process] as positively as we possibly can." The political reality is that the republicans could not have boycotted the body, headed as it is by President Clinton, whose goodwill they are anxious to maintain. The understanding for some

time has been that Sinn Fein would not only talk to the international body hut would do so "authoritatively." as the current inter-governmental jargon puts it. This is taken to mean that its representatives will not simply make the rhetorical point that it is a political party which has no arms. Rather, they will seriously engage on the arms issue, in effect speaking for

Mr Mitchell and his colleagues are due to meet in New York for the first time this weckend, before travelling in about a week's time to Belfast and Duhlin.

The primary objective of the IRA statement was to place on Mr Mitchell's desk an explicit and up-to-date reminder of the absolute republican position that "there is no question of the IRA meeting the ludicrous demand for a surrender of IRA weapons either through the front or the back door," The unmistakable message is to direct Mr Mitchell and his colleagues to look in other directions for routes out of the impasse.

From a republican point of view the British Government has adopted a hardline stance by insisting, in the face of opposition from the Irish government and others, on adhering to the position that actual decommissioning must take place before full-blown negotiations

The British Government has resisted all calls to move away president Pat Doherty: "We fudge it; the IRA for its part has will certainly submit our views not softened either. The key question of the next five weeks will he whether Senator with this oew phase of [the Mitchell can produce a magic formula which everyone can live with. His ability to do so will determine whether the situation deteriorates from the merely desperate to the really serious.



### Black Guardsman may quit over race

PETER VICTOR

Trooper Mark Campbell, the first black soldier in the Life Guards, may resign amid alle-gations of racial abuse. His decision will be a blow to the Prince of Wales's personal efforts to encourage recruitment of ethnic minorities into Household regiments.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed yesterday that alle-

gations of racial abuse were being investigated. But the Independent understands that Tpr Campbell, the first black soldier to ride beside the Queen on state occasions, has declined to make an official complaint.

Tpr Campbell started his du-ties last August in a hlaze of publicity having won the Jack-soo Shield for the best turned.... faced two problems - the strain of heing the solitary black face in the Household Cavalry and a serious skin complaint caused out cavalryman during his by the traditional plumed hel-20-week training. "Race should met and metal chin strap.

not be an issue, it's no problem to me," he said at the time. His first public appearance was during the VJ Day com-

memorations as one of the 18

troopers escorting the Queen. But the popular trooper

ment for the rash but it did not improve. As he could no longer take part in ceremonial duties he was transferred to the regi-ment's training section at Wind-sor, but asked to return to the capital. He said one of the rea-sons he was unhappy at Windsor was because of racially abusive language. He admitted he had never been harmed and refused to make a complaint.

However, Army sources con-firmed he could leave. He received medical treat-Accusations of racial abuse surfaced in the black newspaper The Voice which quotes the

trooper through a friend as saying. "If people had to go through what I'm going through they wouldn't hang on for a week. When you have to make a decision between hanging one in there and your life, what are you going to choose?

## 'Mad cow' fear sends price of beef crashing

**NICHOLAS SCHOON** 

The price of beef continued to fall at cattle markets throughout Britain yesterday, and the blame was being put squarely on the latest BSE scare.

Normally prices at this time of year would be rising in the run up to Christinas, with high-

at a time when prices are usually at their firmest," said Dunes over £700. Only at Louth in Lincolnshire, one of yester-

Prices have fallen because dealers are expecting a big drop in demand from the supermarkets and superstores who now sell most of Britain's beef to

#### rise - by 4p a kilo compared to the previous week's prices. The Meat and Livestock Commission said it was likely

can Sinclair, an economic policy day's largest markets, did prices The weather

#### quality animals being brought analyst with the commission. to market. Instead prices were More than a dozen auctions down by around 3 per cent comwere held yesterday and on avpared to a week ago, according erage the price per kilogram fell to the Meat and Livestock 4p to just over 120p. That fall that butchers would try to boost wipes £25 off the price of a 600kg steer, which usually fetchsales by cutting prices. Commission. This fall is quite significant

#### concise crossword



Old name for 10p coin Fork prongs (5) La ... (opera house) (5)

9 Dilettante (7) 10 Building (7) 11 English queen (4) 12 Bone (3) 14 Merit (4) 18 Part of tennis match (3) 21 As well (4)

23 Get (7)

25 List (7)

26 Picture (5) 27 Respond (5 Respond (5) Putrefy (6) Simple wind instrument (7) Shadow (4) Stocking material (5) Place for film? (6)

Amphibious mammal (5) 13 Crunchy snacks (8) Eg man or ape (7) 19 Attempted (5) 20 Late (6) 22 Opera item (5) 24 Coin factory (4)

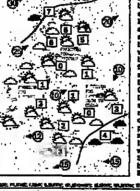
28 State as true (6) Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

Azrose I Income, 4 Odious (Incommodaus), 7 Subtrack, 9 Arid, 10 Hits, 11 Cesse, 13 Tender, 14 Stanza, 15 Mutual, 17 Despot, 19 Rotor, 20 Mars, 22 Helm, 23 Elongated, 34 Emerge, 25 Nobody, Dawn: 1 Infact, 2 Ovid, 3 Exeter, 4 Ogress, 5 Inch. 6 Sicosta, 7 Suprature, 8 Kahrappea, 11 Cedar, 12 Ether, 15 Mumble, 16 Lounge, 17 Domain, 18 Timely, 21 Sur., 22 Herb

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Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials – not what you'd think of giving someone for Christmas. But for a desperate mother in Bosnia basic essentials would mean the world.

trying to keep her child safe from infection, these It would also mean that someone somewhere is thinking of her, and her efforts to protect her child. Feed the Children has delivered baby boxes full of essential items directly into the hands of 11,000

whom will be sheltering in freezing schools, factories, and bombed-out houses this winter. Please, if you possibly can, send a

mothers in Bosnia - many of

baby box to Bosnia this Christmas - and help a mother keep her baby safe.



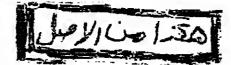
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TAKING THE AID BIRDLY





# Wife claims Ashby threatened to kill her

REBECCA FOWLER

The wife of David Ashby, the Tory MP, described her husband's alleged violent temper to a libel jury yesterday, and claimed he threatened to kill her chained he threatened to kill her if you are going to kill me do when she found him entertainit, do it, if yon've got the ing an elderly male friend; whom she inferred was gay.

whom she inferred was gay. Silvana Ashby, 53, slepped into the witness box to give evidence for the second day. against her husband in his libel case against the Sunday Times, and Andrew Nell, the paper's former editor. Mr Ashby denies

When Mrs Ashby visited her deny physical intimacy. Mrs me and we had a fight outside, year when she went to Raven-hosband's Ravenstone home, Ashby visited her husband's The grass was wet and we both stone. She found him with Edunannounced, in his Leicesstituency, she said he attacked her with a carving knife. "I said

When Mr Ashby left his Italian wife in 1993, after 28 years of 'tempestuous' marriage, he moved to a flat in south-west London, and Mrs Ashby be-

flat and confronted Dr Kilduff tershire North West con- on Christmas Eve 1993, after Mr Ashby refused an invitation to Christmas lunch with her and their daughter Alexandra, 27. They had a furious fight when Mrs Ashby said she saw a man putting his arm around Mr

Ashby in the kitchen. "I just couldn't take it. I shouted at him 'are you still saying you're on your own ... and don't have anybody?'," she said. heved that his neighbour, Dr 'He flew downstairs came into Ciaran Kilduff, 32, was his the garden and put his hands homosexual partner. Both men round my neck, he tried to slap

Mrs Ashby said she rushed inside and saw Dr Kilduff. "I said 'at last Kilduff it's time you and I met'." She continued: "He didn't have any reaction whatsoever. He was calm and cool. he was extremely cold. He just passed in front of me, went into the study, picked up the telephone and said we've got an in-truder in the flat. Can you please send someone as soon as

Mrs Ashby said her husband attacked her again in July this the point of panic I dialled 999

possible'."

ward O'Byrne, a retired civil servant who had suffered a stroke. According to Mrs Ashby her husband said: "How dare you come here uninvited." She said Mr Ashhy then knocked her head on the wall.

emptied her handbag, and

and burn her face. "I went into the kitchen, he took a very long knife, pointed it at me and said. I'm going to kill you"." Mrs Ashby said. "At

and he pulled the plug out of the

Afterwards Mrs Ashby brought her dogs in from the car, and said she challenged her husband about his friend: "I said My God, David, you've made me sick. First you're going for young boys, now you're going

for old and crippled men." When Mrs Ashby was asked threatened to set her skirt on fire with a cigarette lighter. where she learned the swear words she used in arguments. which Mr Ashby said he found upsetting carlier in the trial, she said, to laughter from the courtroom: "From my husband and watching Channel 4.7

After Mrs Ashby returned to London from Ravenstone, she alleged that Mr Ashby took her Volve car from the drive, which she believed he had insured after she told him the payment was averdue.

But when he returned it there was a copy of a letter in-side the car which he had sent to Wandsworth CID informing them his wife was driving an uninsured car which he regarded a "serious offence."

Mr Ashby wrote: "Should you wish to consider prosecuting my wife. I'm prepared to be interviewed.

When the Smalay Times published its first article on Mr Ashby's domestic situation in January 1994, alleging that he left his wife to live close to another man. Mrs Ashby said her husband asked her to he to

news

protect him. "He said Twe got a solution to get rid of all these people, you just have to go out and say you've made a terrible mistake, that you've been lying, that you're very vengeful and spite-

"I said I'm not going to say I'm lying, because I'm not." The case continues.

ful." Mrs. Ashby said.

Seasonal spending: Survey reveals regional gift gap as retailers pin their hopes on key products to capture elusive business

### All I want for Christmas is a high street recovery

**GLENDA COOPER** 

With only 16 shopping days to Christmas, if you're hoping for a good present this year you need to cultivate your 25-yearold female relatives in the Mid-lands. Midlands, where people will fork out £255 on gifts alto-

the country rush to buy Baywatch Barbies, Power Rangers, Action Men and Pogs in the final countdown to Christmas they can muse on the fact that the British spend £7bn on Christmas, so their kids can look forward to an average £75 worth of presents each.

The Touche Ross Christmas Retail Survey 1995 estimates the average consumer will be shelling out £440 each this year. - and 44 will spend most on toys, being careful not to spend more with favourites such as Pogs than last year. The biggest share goes on gifts [£234] followed by grams - and Action Man. £132 on food and drink and £74 45 to 64 year-olds will sp

on other items.

people will spend nearly £50 more than Londoners on gifts and £40 more on food and drink than the Welsh. Those after a good present though should think of moving to the As harassed parents around gether. Londoners will be spending below average - £410

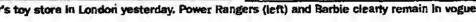
- because of higher than average concern about job security. The peace process appears to be paying dividends, with Ulster voted by retailers as the region most likely to perform better than last year.

Women will spend more on gifts than men and the highest spending group will be 25 to 34-year-olds. Those between 25 small laminated discs with holo-

45 to 64-year-olds will spend most on clothes and over-65s The highest spending area will go for food and drink Paroverall is the North West, where ents with children aged be-



Baby doll: Children at Hamley's toy store in London yesterday. Power Rangers (left) and Barble clearly remain in vogue





### Baywatch Barbie for boyfriends

She has long blonde hair, hig blue eyes, countless new looks, and is the best selling doll for girls this Christinas. And apparently for boys as well, writes Glenda Cooper.

The success of Baywatch Barbie, the latest incarnation of the blonde plastic bombshell, is due to teenage girls buying the £15 doll for their boylriends who are fans of the TV series Bay-watch, according to the British Association of Toy Retailers.

Baywatch Barbic, a lifeguard dressed in a red swimsuit, bears a close resemblance to the show's star Pamela Anderson Lee. Or as a spokesman for the BATR puts it: "You could say Pamela Anderson modelled herself on Barbie. After all

Barbie got there first,"
"Mums used to be mad on Barbie so they buy them for their daughters, he added. "But according to some of our retailers teenage girls are buy-ing them for their boyfriends who are fans of Baywatch, It doesn't surprise me in the

Midjands: £71 North West £88 Wates: £66 Eonston £81 South East 274 North East: £73 East Anglia: £426 South West: £441 Scotland: £441 Scotland: £447 Midlerigs: £471 North West £493 Wales: £410 London: £410 South East £421 North East: £420

tween 5 and 9 will, unsurprisingly, spend more than double the amount on gifts as spent by couples without children.
What they will be spending it on, according to the hype, are

the latest CD-Rom computer games. Clive Vaughan, retail consultant for analysts Verdict, year's favourites, were still going strong but the crucial difference to retailers' prospects of success this Christmas was the launch of new games by Sega and Sony "trying to revive the computer games boom of 1993"

Sony's Playstation, a new meration 32-bit system, shifted 50,000 units within five weeks of its launch. It has now sold 85,000 and Sony claims it will sell 130,000 by Christmas – mainly to men in their mid 20s. Sega, which has dominated

the UK market, says that its rival 32-bit Saturn games system has sold about 60,000 and will sell 80 to 85,000 by Christmas "at a conservative estimate". Both are now priced at £299, with games costing between £40 and £50.

But while consumers may know what they want, the Touche Ross survey suggests that stores are badly out of step. While retailers believe that out of town, factory outlets and TV home shopping will take a larg-er share away from the high

street, 60 per cent of consumers are planning to buy their Christmas presents on the high street or at department stores.

What people look for when shopping also seems to be at variance with those organising

Customers say they want a that Power Rangers, last larger selection of goods with a convenient location followed by low prices. Retailers think that customers' priorities are customer service, quality and better availability of stock.

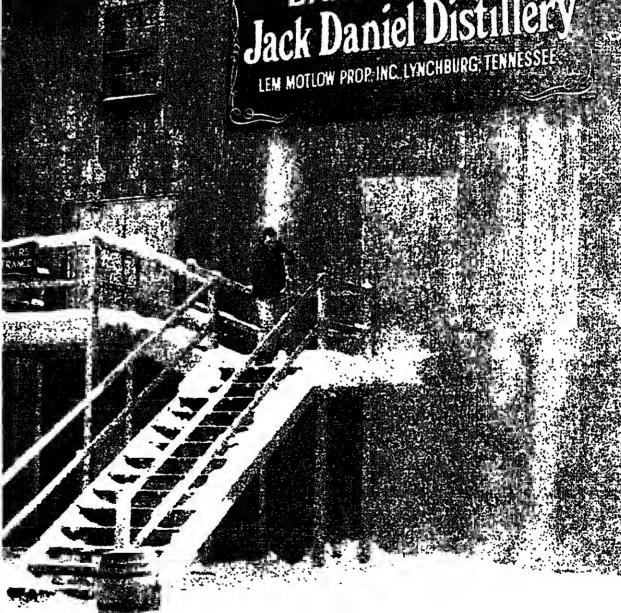
Mr Vaughan said it was a worrying time for retailers as consumers left it later and later to do their Christmas

shopping.
"Most retailers are holding their breath waiting for some-thing to happen. There's a lot of nervousness that customers do not seem to be spending." he

This could well aid the con-sumer, he added: "There will be some bargains around. The more consumers leave it to the last minute before committing to spend, the more panicky re tailers will get and there I be good pre-Christmas sales."

If you haven't even got as far as making a Christmas list, don't worry. Apparently a third of us leave shopping to the last two weeks and more than one in ten wait until the last possi-ble week.





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Gangland killing: Police dismiss links to death of Leah Betts as victims revealed as rising figures in narcotics underworld

## Double-cross theory on murder of drug dealers

WILL BENNETT

Three men shot dead in a gangland killing in Essex may have been the victims of a double cross or have been murdered hecause they owed money. police said yesterday

Detectives dismissed reports that the killings were heing linked to the death of Leah Betts, the teenager who died last month after taking ecstasy, as "pure speculation"

They are concentrating their inquiries on known associates of the three men who are all largescale drug-dealers in Essex.

Craig Rolfe, 26, from Grays; Patrick Tate, 37, from Basildon; and Anthony Tucker, 38, from Fobbing, were shot dead in a Range Rover in the village of Rettendon, near Chelmsford. Their bodies were found on a feeding pheasants on Thursday

a gangland execution.

Detective Superintendent Ivan Dibley, who is leading the inquiry, said yesterday: "They had been killed, I suppose, because of a problem with their drug-dealing. There is nothing to suggest that they distributed

drugs to Leah Betts."
He agreed they were "wholesale rather than retail drugs dealers. "They were dealing at a higher level than the street traders." he said. "There could be a power struggle going on or a double-cross taking place and somebody has sought retribution. It might be that somebody

owed money. Because it is quick money and easy money, there is this power struggle among the larg-er dealers and inevitably there are going to be incidents such

He said that the three men

morning. It was soon clear it was a gangland execution. had been moving up in the drug-dealing world and sold a vari-Rover or whether they were at ety of substances. He did not know whether this included ecstasy. "It may be that the shooting has occurred because higher drug dealers were trying to find a position of power.

Donna Jaggers, Rolfe's girlfriend, wept yesterday as she appealed for help catch those

sponsible for the killings. Det Supt Dibley said that six or seven shots had been fired at the men from one or more shotguns. Rolfe, the driver, and Tucker, the front seat passenger, had heen shot in the head, and Tate, who was in the back, was hlasted in the head and body.

He said: "The shooting was done at very close range. You did not need to be an expert to have achieved what was whether the persons who committed these murders travelled

Rover or whether they were at It is likely that I am looking for

of Leah Betts yesterday arrested a teenager in connection with supplying the drug.

A 17-year-old youth from Basildon, Essez, was charged with supplying a Class A drug and bailed to appear at Chelmsford magistrates on 10 January. Leah died after taking the drug at her 18th birthday party at her home in Latchingdon, Essex, on 10 November.

Leah is believed to have bought the ecstasy that killed her from Raquel's nightclub, in Basildon. She fell into a coma after taking the pill and was put on a life support machine. She died four days later. Tests showed that the drug had not



Vehicle of crime: The Range Rover in which the three men died is removed from Rettendon Photograph: Nick Turpin PHOTOGRAPHY MAX FORSYTHE

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### Violent end to a tacky dream

WILL BENNETT

Craig Rolfe, Patrick Tate and Anthony Tucker thought they were taking the fast route to easy money in the soulless towns of south Essex.

The three men were friends and worked as a criminal team in Basildon, Grays and the surrounding areas, and all had numerons previous convictions for various offences.

But these were for traditional crimes such as stealing cars, burglaries and armed robberies. Tate had come out of prison after serving a sentence for the latter only a month before they were shot dead. All three had ambitious to

underworld today, that means dealing in drugs, with the risk of making dangerous enemies.

Tate knew the risks involved because he had been wounded by a gunman in a murder attempt outside his home just

make more money - and in the

before he went into prison.

Det Supt Ivan Dibley, heading the inquiry into the killing of the three men at Rettendon, near Chelmsford, said: "These men, from previous experience, have been involved in criminality where it is likely that their

lives have been threatened." Tate, 37, had lived with his minder, and their 18-month-old son at a hungalow in Basildon. The couple moved in 18 months ago and had spent thousands of

girlfriend left before he came

Sylvia Pearce, a neighbour, said: "They were rum neighbours. I'm not surprised something like this should happen. There were always cars drawing np and people visiting at all

Rolfe, 26, from Grays, came. from a violent background. According to a police source yesof manslaughter in 1978 for an axe attack on his mother from which she later died.

Outwardly he was a devoted family man and had lived with his girlfriend Donna Jaggers, 26, for seven years. The couple have a six-year-old daughter. Tucker, 38, had recently

moved to a large house in the village of Fohhing, near Basildon. He was not well known by neighbours, one of whom said:
"He looked a tough nut and I kept well away.

The village is full of mock-Ridor windows and bungalows that would not look out of place on the Costa Del Sol. It was the sort of lifestyle to which Tucker aspired.

He got a whiff of that life through his friendship with the boxing champion Nigel Benn, for whom he had acted as a minder at big fights.

three started dealing whole sale in drugs. They were murdered in Rolfe's Range Rover in a muddy lane. It was a violent end to a tacky dream.





Blasted to death: Anthony Tucker, left, and Craig Rolfe



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Speaker accused: Sir Marcus Fox to discuss complaints of bias

## Boothroyd under fire from Tory backbench

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 committee, is expected to seek an informal meeting with the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, to discuss complaints by some Tory MPs that she has been high handed in some of her dealings with them.

Ms Boothroyd began a long weekend away yesterday after one of the more turbulent weeks in her five-year tenure of the Speaker's Chair - by all ac-counts in no mood to be "pushed around" by some of her more. strident critics on the Tory back-

A senior Tory backbencher yesterday confirmed in the wake of a meeting of the 1922 executive on Thursday that Sir Marcus was likely to seek a "quiet chat" with the Speaker to discuss the criticisms. A robust Ms Boothroyd effectively challenged her critics on Thursday to put down a motion against her if they wished and promised it would be

"debated immediately". But there were growing signs that party business managers and many Tory MPs are wary of joining a campaign of criticism by a small and vociferous group in the party - among them Alan Duncan, MP for Rutland and Melton, and a parliameotary aide to Brian Mawhinney, the

Conservative Party chairman. And parliamentary supporters of the Speaker - who enjoys a legendary level of popularity by the standards of other politicians in the country at large strongly refute suggestions that as a former Labour MP she has been biased against the government benches in her rulings. A widely publicised tally of.



Betty Boothroyd: In no mood to be 'pushed around'

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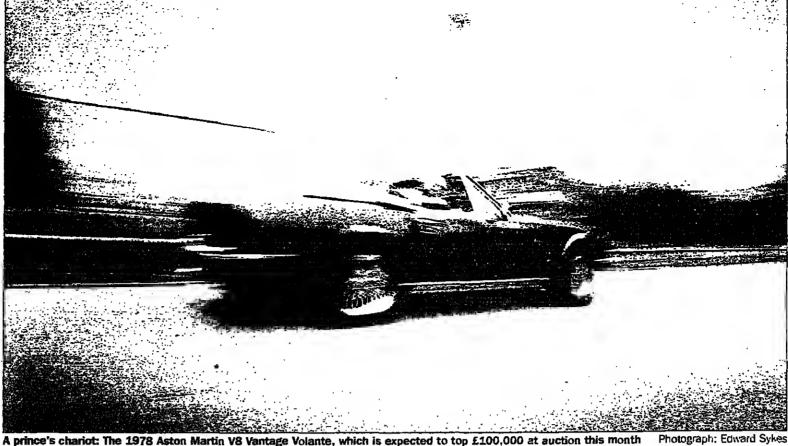
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complaints against the Speaker yesterday included claims that she had been wrong to cut off an intervention by Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary; that she unnecessarily re-huked Rod Richards, Welsh Under-Secretary for his criti-cism of Tony Blair for sending his son to a grant-maintained school; and that she refused to condemn alleged "bully boy" tactics by Labour whips against

Labour rebels in this week's vote

on the Budget resolutions. But her supporters counter with an equally detailed list of cases in which she has come down on beavily on Labour MPs pointing out that the only MPs she has barred from the Chamber have been non-Tories: Dennis Skinner (Labour, twice); Campbell-Savours (Labour, twice) and Ian Paisley (DUP, once)

They strongly counter claims that she was unfair to Mr Hurd after Michael Howard's statement on asylum on 20 November by reminding him that he should be asking questions rather than making a state-ment. The suggestion that she series of questions in his inter-



The car's the star – by Royal Appointment

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completed in 1486 at the Aston

JOHN McKIE

It has one careful owner, 46,000 miles on the clock and will be sold on 11 December. But before any parents get any Christmas present ideas for the first-time driver, they should

Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante and that the previous owner is the Prince of Wales.

The Prince has donated the Aston Martin, one of only 22 in the world, to a Sotheby's auction, with all proceeds going to the Prince's Charities Trust. bear in mind that the car is an The 400 horsepower 150mph

Martin headquarters in Buckinghamshire to "the Prince of Wales's specification". It features extra sound-

proofing and a jar in which HRH kept sugar lumps to give as treats to his ponies. It is ex-

£190,000 and £130,000 in the motorcycles at the RAF Museum in Hendon, north London, on a and 11 December.

The auction also features what is expected to be the most expensive motorcycle ever sold.

ridden to Grand Prix victory by John Surtees, as well as Gary Hocking, John Hartle and Mike Hailwood, and is one of the most successful machines ever. Sotheby's expect it to realise at least £200,000t, more than double the £90,000 world record,

### Schools' careers advice 'poor'

םסטר אנוסטר

Careers education and guidance is poor in one out of three schools, according to a report from inspectors published vesterday.

A minority of schools is ignoring pupils' interests and trying to persuade them to stay on in the sixth form when they would be better off elsewhere. the report from the Office for Standards in Education says.

It says the need for schools to market themselves because they get money for each sixth-former means some are not offering im-partial advice: "In about a quarter of the schools with sixth forms, there were unresolved tensions as to how far students should be encouraged to go and see for themselves what was on offer elsewhere." Those that were open and even-handed about careers advice did not suffer from an evodus of pupils.

The survey, based on 117 school inspections and evidence gathered from a further 72 schools, found students were not given enough information to decide whether they were suited to A-level or advanced vocational courses (GNVOs). □ A Survey of Careers Education and Guidance in Schools: HMSO: £3.95.

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### Judge rejects claim that rail sell-off is unlawful

**CHRISTIAN WOLMAR** 

Rail campaigners will go to the Court of Appeal on Monday in a last-ditch attempt to stop the rail privatisation process, after a judge ruled against them in the High Court yesterday.

In a forthright judgment, Mr Justice Macpherson rejected the campaigners' claims that the franchise director, Roger Salmon, had been wrong to set minimum standards of service for private operators which are well below those at present run by British Rail.

The case for judicial review was brought by the antiprivatisation group Save Our Railways, which argued that Passengers Service Requirements" that set the minimum level of service for operators un-der the new structure for the privatised railways allowed for substantial cuts in services. The campaigners argued that this was unlawful because Mr Salmon is supposed to bave based his requirements on the existing timetable.

The judge, however, accept-ed the arguments of counsel for the franchise director, who said that the word "based" did not mean "the same as".

The judge stressed that the PSRs are not the ultimate timetable. They are supposed to allow a certain amount of flexibility for operators to run com-mercially profitable services at times and frequencies which they choose.

The judge ruled that he was unable to say that Mr Salmon had acted either "perversely, ir-rationally or unfairly", which were the only types of behaviour the court was able to declare were unlawful.

Indeed, the judge was critical of Save Our Railways for having brought the case, arguing that "too many cases come to this court which have no place bere". He said: "The director and staff bave indeed based themselves on current levels of award soon."

service. Evidence shows the director used the timetables as a starting point and that was what he was enjoined to do."
Consequently, the judge rejected Save Our Railways' application for leave to appeal but the campaigner said they would apply to the Court of Appeal on Monday.

Jimmy Knapp, leader of the RMT rail workers' union, which is part of the Save Our Railways campaign, said: "Privatisation will lead to major cuts in services. We won the transport argument but lost the legal one."

Labour's transport spokes-woman, Clare Short, said: 'This result is very disappointing for Britain's rail users as it allows the Government and private op-erators to go ahead and cut rail services after privatisation."

Ms Short said it was notable that the judge emphasised how he did not want to interfere in political decisions, but did not state that the cuts to services were reasonable or desirable.

The failure of the case opens the way for Mr Salmon to announce the winners of the fran-chises for two of the first three lines on Tuesday, which are likely to be the management buy-out team for the London, Tilbury and Southend line, and Stagecoach for South West Trains. The winning bidder for the third line, Great Western Railway, which is also likely to go to the management buy-out team, will be announced a few

days later.
Nick Newton, the assistant franchise director, said: "We will press on with the franchising process. The judge recognised that we are safeguarding vulnerable services, while allowing operators to run commercially profitable services." .

Sir George Young, the Sec-retary of State for Transport, said: "I welcome the decision to allow the franchising director to proceed with the first tranche of franchises and look forward to his announcement of their

The new evangelism: 'Captain Bible must use Scripture to destroy the Dome of Darkness'



All together now: Followers of Rodney Howard-Browne are carried away on a wave of emotion, while the excitement is clearly too much for some (below) Photograph: Philip Meech

# Praying all the way to the bank

ANDREW BROWN Religious Affairs

"Amen, praise God, hallelujah, make your cheques payable to Revival Ministries Internationall" cries the South African evangelist Rodney Howard-Browne, who has been at Olympia, in London, this week. He preaches the "health and

wealth" doctrines - you give to him and God will give to you discredited among mainstream evangelicals. But he is credited with being the man who to register, "for security pur-brought the "Toronto Bless-poses", to weed out demon-

British churches, and is characterised by uncontrollable gig-gling on the part of the blessed, who consider it a sign of the

Holy Spirit's presence. The blessing is controversial among evangelicals, some of whom believe that God would never make his followers do anything so undignified, but Howard-Browne himself is more controversial still. Visitors to his show are asked

poses", to weed out demon-

ing" to Toronto. A wave of excitement bas passed from Toronto to more than 2,000 strators and the press. Inside, I was banded a copy of the mail-order catalogue for the Kensington Temple, one of the largest pentecostal churches in Britain, offering fundamentalist computer games - "Help Captain Bible as be gets sent to destroy the Dome of Darkness. Armed with his computer bible, Captain Bible must find

> action adventure and apply Scripture to destroy the forces of deception." Howard-Browne himself, a

his way through seven levels of

told stories of his povertystricken time in South Africa, when he could only afford a broken-down Mercedes.

PR camp

or blames ji

orising eri

He asked those who could not write cheques to give cash, Those with no cash could fill out "pledge forms", promising to send him sums of money later. "My God will liberally supply your every need. If it worked for me, it can work for you."

I could bear no more. I filled burly, vulpine man, moved out a pledge card in the name seamlessly from prayer straight of Jenny Rous-Twytte and left.



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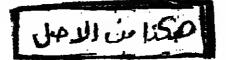
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news

# Mawhinney over 'Lie Machine'

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

Tony Blair, the Labour leader. made an unusually strongly worded attack yesterday on Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chauman, accusing him of running a propaganda "Lie Machine".

Tory public relations offensives in a week, Mr Blair told a Scottish Labour Party dinner in Glasgow. "The Tory Lie Machine has moved up a gear as the election nears. They will smear, as they always do, and lie and cheat and spend vast sums on

untruthful propaganda."
He cited Conservative Central Office's role in using sensitive Home Office information the about the future." about individual asylum applications, in publicising an opt-out ballot at a school in his own constituency against the wishes of the headteacher, and in plac-ing a story which the Lord or lower income tax by up to 3p

Clashfern, was forced to deny.

Donald Dewar, the Opposition chief whip, has written to Mr Mawhinney asking about the role in these cases of Sheila Gunn, the new Tory press officer. Ms Gunn was appointed by Mr Mawhinney, who became chairman in July. Mr Dewar After the collapse of three asked: "Are these people mere-by incompetent, or malicious, or is it simply that they are out of

> Mr Blair's speech last night broadened the attack, accusing Mr Mawhinney of "reducing government to an extension of Central Office . . . It's propaganda first, second and third. the national interest last. Lie about Labour, he about the past,

He accused Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scot-land, of lying about Labour's "tartan tax" plan to give a Scot-tish parliament power to raise

Chancellor, Lord Mackay of in the pound. Tartan taxes are scare stories. Tory taxes are all too real. Our devolved parliament will not tax anyone unless the people of Scotland vote for it. Nobody voted for 20 new Tory taxes in 1992 but they got them just the same. They lied about their tax plans then. They

are lying about our tax plans now," he said.

Mr Forsyth fought back yesterday, saying Mr Blair had no credibility with his "pathetic assection" that he would exect a sertion that he would create a power to raise a tartan tax but that it might not be used and that we must await a manifesto to find out".

Mr Blair also linked Mr Mawhinney to Tory complaints that Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the Commons, was ised towards Labour. Alan Duncan (C, Rutland), Mr Mawhinney's parliamentary private secretary, was reported to be keeping a record of incidents of alleged bias.

# Blair rounds on Labour soothes business fears over tax

JOHN ARLIDGE Scotland Correspondent

Tooy Blair moved to tackle economic fears over Labour's plans for constitutional reform vesterday when he told Scottish business leaders that he had "no plans" to increase income tax

north of the border. The Labour leader reaffirmed his commitment to leg-islate for a Scottish parliament with revenue-raising powers in the first year of government. But he dismissed as "lies" Tory claims that the parliament would impose a "tartan tax". "The Labour Party has no plans to raise tax whether in Scotland or elsewhere," he said.

Addressing 500 senior busi-nessmen and women in Edinburgh, Mr Blair said Labour's proposed parliament would have the power to raise income tax north of the border by up to 3 pence in the pound. It would be up to the Scottish Labour Party to draw up Labour's manifesto for elections to the new body but, he went on, plans to increase tax rates.

George Robertson, Labour's spokesman on Scottish affairs. who leads the Scottish party, strongly hinted that he would oppose tax-raising policies.



assigned budgets," he said, Mr Blair's comments came

to live within the existing Labour to abandon its devolution plans, Many industrialists fear that Labour politicians after some of Scotland's leadwould use the proposed paring employers - including Scotliament's tax-raising powers. "Any decision on tax would be tish and Newcastle, the brewing forcing up wage demands, futaken with great prudence and and leisure giant, and Weir care. It may be that we decide Group engineers - called on ing inward investment.

Mr Blair insisted that their fears were unfounded. He was determined to initiate an "informed debate" on devolution. The more the policy was discussed, the more business would realise that it represented an "opportunity and not a threat".

A parliament would bring business closer to the country's decision-makers, he said, pledging that a Scottish parliament would not be able to change the business climate by varying corporation tax, or changing any regulatory regime in any sector,

# Spin doctor at heart of 'risky' PR campaign

"Sheila Gunn takes risks she do on the Bill. Their aim is to shouldn't take, but the respon-sibility lies with Brian Mawhin-certain information to continney." was the judgement of ually put cases before the one observer yesterday, writes public," he said. John Rentoul.

came a parliamentary reporter, leader by Sir Fergus Mont-editor of the Times Diary and gomery (C. Altrincham and then a political correspondent. Sale) and Tim Devlin (C. Stock-

third of five girlfriends: Steven Norris; the transport minister, when the amorous adventures of the 50-year-old former car dealer, who is separated from his wife, were revealed in the tabloid press. On her ar-

rival at Central she Office, immediately

Labour rivals who regularly it. I will be voting for him at the toured the newspaper offices behind the Commons press Tories to drag him into it." gallery. From her first day, Miss Gunn was a regular presence. did not improve. Just this week, three stories emanating from

page story in the Gundian, which claimed she had given journalists confidential information about the case of a Nigerian seeking asylum, Abiodun Igbindu, who has been in detention since June.

immigration spokesman, accused Central Office of using had circulated among Cabinet underhand tactics to get the ministers. The assumption was Asylum and Immigration Bill that Mr Mawhinney had decidoutrageous and probably a fore and asked Miss Gunn to put it taste of what they are going to out with some "top-spin" on it.

Tory Central Office also pro-

She is well-liked among moted the complaints of the Westminster journalists, having beadteacher of a school in Tony been one herself until she was Blair's constituency, who said loappointed senior press officer cal Labour activists had "inat Conservative Central Office timidated and misled" parents at the beginning of last month. in the ballot to convert to grant-But she has appeared too eager maintained status which the to carry out the Tory chairman's headteacher lost this week. The ruthless campaign to match story first appeared in the Sun-Labour's slick public relations. day Express on 26 November and A secretary on the Times - was then used in the Commons news desk in the 1970s, she be-

> ead in Wednesday's *Daily* Telegraph. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, then ordered an in-

vestigation into the claims, and her department's press release was faxed out by Tory Central Office. But by then the head had decided be did not want any made a differ- Gunne Did not stem mishaps further action

taken. He said: Tory press officers had been "Tony Blair is an honourable heavily outnumbered by their man. He is nothing to do with

On Thursday came the worst mishap so far. A front-page sto-But the Tories' problem of ry, again in the Telegraph, re-pushing poorty checked stories ported a speech to be given that night by the Lord Chancellor, in the Tories' faces.
On Tuesday, Miss Gunn's use of Home Office information became the subject of a face of the subject of th

denial insisting not only that he was not giving a speech that night but that he did not hold the views attributed to him. It quickly emerged that the Telegraph story was written on the basis of a briefing by Miss Doug Henderson, Labour's Gunn, who in turn was quoting through the Commons. "It is ed this would be a good story

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NEW MIDITIONS WARRILL BASE RUTE EFFECTIVE FROM DI DI 96 FOR EXECTIVO MALARITY AND HAVE DE COCUMENTO ON THE LORN AS A PERCENTRACE OF THE PLACHASE PRICE OF MALLATION, WHICHEVER IS LONG. AND THE TERM OF THE DECOUNTED WARRELE RATES DEPIND ON THE LORN AS A PERCENTRACE OF THE PLACHASE PRICE OF MALLATION, WHICHEVER IS LONG. ALL PRODUCTS AND OTHER CHEENS OR SEQUENT TO MALARITY AND HAVE BE ADMITTED AND ADMITTED TO TAX DECIDES AND THE PERCENTRACE OF THE PLACHASE PRICE OF MALLATION AND THE MALARITY OF MALLATION AND THE MA

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY REPRESENTS ONLY THE HALIFAX FINANCIAL SERVICES MARKETING GROUP (WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY) FOR LIFE ASSURANCE, PEWSIONS AND UNIT TRUSTS.

### Tory blames judges for rising crime

JOHN RENTOUL

minded judges and magistrates" for rising crime levels yesterday and called for the return of national service and the birch. by shooting burglars.

David Evans, MP for Welwyn this year's Tory leadership election, complained that some of streets. the judiciary was suffering from

"mad judge disease". He also suggested, in a debate on crime, that judges fines against the parents did not should be paid a percentage of work we could put them bethe fines they imposed to en-

courage them to give sentences "that fit the crime". He de-A right-wing Conservative MP manded the castration of blamed "liberal, socialist-rapists. And he said it might be a good idea to double the £10 Christmas bonus for pensioners if they protected their property

Mr Evans said prison worked and Hatfield and John Red in deterring criminals. "One wood's campaign manager in more scumbag behind bars is

> He called for measures to tackle "pathetic parents" who cannot control their children. If

### news

# Hospitals face casualty attack

**NICHOLAS TIMMINS** and PATRICK BUTLER

Fierce criticism of hospital accident and emergency departments, in the face of mounting pressures and growing staff shortages, is on the way from the

A leak to the Health Service departments shows that most are having difficulty in attracting enough doctors of all ranks, from consultants to juniors.

Meanwhile, swift emergency admission is proving more difficult to achieve at many hospitals. An increasing proportion of patients in many A & E demany are treated by unsuper-

If the number of emergency log-jams of patients blocking cu-bicles and spilling into corridors changes in the way the depart-ments operate which have

speed with which patients are seen, but their quality of care, the draft report says.

It recommends a complex series of measures, iocluding training nurses to handle less serious cases and using a wider range of skills, from suturing Journal of the commission's wounds and applying plaster of draft report on NHS casualty Paris to defibrillating patients after heart attacks.

The study also criticises the Patient's Charter standard that patients must be assessed within five minutes of arrival. With few exceptions, the commission found, those units that had the best rating for assessing patients quickly were in fact the partments are acutely ill, but slowest for actually treating

The draft, due for revision and publication next year, says admissions continues to rise. that the charter has forced

will become an increasing prob-lem, affecting not only the advantage.

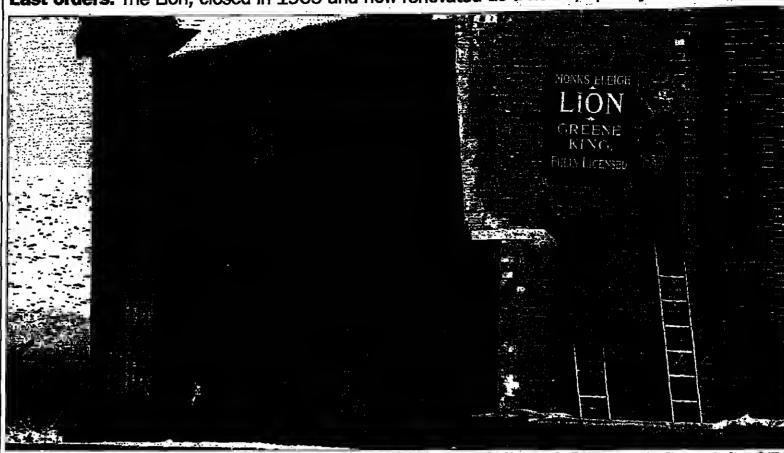
Widespread variations were found in the time it took patients to be treated in the 220 A & E departments in England and Wales. At ooe, 95 per ceot of patients were seen by a doctor within one hour, at another, only 32 per ceot.

The oumber of consultant accident specialists has doubled in

the past 15 years, but while some hospitals have three consultants, others have only one. Shorter junior doctor hours. more telescoped training, the removal of the requirement that all trainee surgeons must do a spell in casualty, and competition from other specialities meant that half of hospitals had too few doctors. A rise of a quarter in junior grades and 43 per cent in middle grade doctors is needed to meet staffing oceds. That is unlikely to hap-

pen, the commission believes.

Last orders: The Lion, closed in 1965 and now renovated as a home, opens just one more time



Times past: Carol Hibberd watches John Ratcliffe, right, and a workman adjust the sign at The Lion, Monks Eleigh, yesterday Photograph: Glynn Griffid

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# Pub-for-a-day family pulls pints for locals

CLARE GARNER

It's open house but not oo the house at The Lion; in Monks Eleigh, Suffolk, today. For the owners have decided to reopen the pub that has been closed since 1965 for just one

day before moving into what is to be their family home. Customers will be drinking hitter at £1.50 not 9p a pint, but beyond such inevitable inconsistencies, John Ratcliffe and his wife, Carol Hibberd, 39, have done their best to recreate the

atmosphere of yesteryear.
Mr Ratcliffe, 38, a joiner, has built a bar and planted some pub pews in the room which was ooce the saloon but is now their sitting-room. Other props include the original pub sign, a darts board, two log fires, and a live folk band for the evening. But this local will not last long. Come 11pm, orders will be the

very last.
"It's nice to entertain the idea of running a pub, but personally the practicalities don't appeal. I like going to pubs but I also like to come home at the end of the night," Mr Ratcliffe, who has been granted a 12-hour

"occasioo" licence, said.
"It was a pub until 1965 and hasn't been lived in since 1968; so really people remember it last as a pub. It seemed appropri-ate to give it another chance to live as a pnb. Apart from that, it's an excuse for a party and gives people in the village who have seen the renovation work going oo over the last couple of years a chance to come and have a look in the house."

One villager who intends to drop in for a drink is Arthur Mayes, 76, a retired farm worker. "I've been around in the village all my life. I drank in The Lion in 1942. It was a big, de-cent puh with a social club upstairs," he said.

"We used to go round all the pubs in the village, going from one to the next. We used to have that now. All there is this here disco - a lot of rubbish. Most of the people who used to go there will probably be dead now, but I will be going down there." When the family bought the

Grade II listed building two years ago it was "a bit of an eyesore": Now it is a sixbedroom home for the couple and their four children, Ashley, 13, Melanie, 11, Tom, 5, and Lucy, 2.

At one time there were four pubs in Monks Eleigh, of which only The Bull and The Swan survive. "In 1965 a huge rambling pub was seen as a liability by a hrewery but now The Lion, within fiver frontage and acre and a half of land would be seen as an asset," Mr Ratcliffe said.



### Milky Bar Kid spared custody

an industrial estate was given a "rare opportunity" and placed on a £1,000-a-day youth programme at the Old Bailey today resources." instead of being given a term

in custody.

The fire at Walthamstow, east London, resulted in enormous damage and joh loss which was "dne to your foolish and mischievous conduct", the Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney, told the teenager, who is just over 4ft tall and bespectacled with red hair, and appeared in court wearing an anorak.

but I want to make it clear that in the ordinary course the ap-propriate sentence would be custody for a substantial period

"An alternative has been put before the court which I believe it ought to adopt. It is a rare opportunity which will help broke his leg when he had to you not only in relation to this jump from the first floor. matter, but for the rest of your

Alan Doherty that the youngster did not have the stature cause. or emotion to be able to cope with being locked in an

"He acts like a 10- to 12-yearold and could not cope with the court was told.

institution.

A 15-year-old arsonist who caused £500,000 of damage on "He is a small young man who

Mr Doherty said the scheme the boy would start as part of his supervision order was expensive, but would help his social development, boost his self-esteem and give him

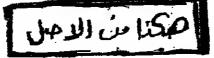
projects and practical work.
The teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had admitted arson.

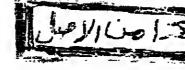
The boy - dubbed The Milky Bar Kid by outsiders because of his size - had set fire to some The judge went on: "I think waste material in a stairwell of you are sorry for what you did, a clothing company on the industrial estate, and the blaze had spread rapidly, burning down other units on the site. John Ryder, prosecuting, had told the court.

Handreds of people were forced to flee. Some found their exit impeded, and one man

A consultant psychiatrist who examined the boy said she The judge made a two-year supervision order after being told by the court youth worker alised what his actions would

The teenager suffered a growth deficiency and had been bullied and intimidated in the past because of his height, the pal Mint t





Planning battle: High Court told demolition order was flouted and council officer was fooled when home was grassed over

# Farmer jailed for hiding house under ground

house under a mound of earth in an attempt to circumvent planning officers, was jailed for three months at the High Court in London yesterday for contempt of a court order to demolish it.

Mr Sedgbeer insisted that by removing the roof and top storey of the house at Stoke Gabriel, oear Totnes in Devon, he had complied with an order to reduce

it to the original ground level.
But Mr Justice Sachs said that
the farmer had been shown
considerable indulgence by the courts and South Hams District Council, and "The time has now come . . . for me to commit him to prison for three months.".

Mr Sedgbeer, 47, said: "I don't regret what I did. It just shows what I have said all along the courts are always to the side of the council. They seem to get away with whatever they like, which is all wrong."

He said he and his wife; Loret-

ta, had spent more than £2,000. fighting to overturn the council's refusal of planning permission and said he would be appealing against the jail sentence.

Mr Sedgbeer said that the house was at present a "kennel for the dogs". He and his family were living in Paignton. Geoffrey Stephenson, coun-

sel for the local anthority, had told the judge that in January 1990 the council issued an enforcement notice requiring removal of the building to ground level because it was built without consent, Back-dated con-

and the state of the state of ng bergerapasi sa

محقوما ستكدار وببيوم الممينة

1 - Friday 18

1993 Mr Sedgbeer was fined Our home has the support £300 for breach of the of the village and neighbouring enforcement notice.

His continued refusal to pull down the house led to a series of High Court hearings at which he was given more time to demolish, culminating on 21 April this year in a three-month jail

order, suspended as long as he got rid of the building by 8 May. On 9 May, a council en-forcement officer, Michael Huxtable, visited the site and found a mound of earth and salvage materials, but no sign of the house. He was convinced the house had been demolished. and reported so to the council.

However, in October he revisited the site and discovered that the mound of earth covered ordered to pay legal costs.

the ground floor of the house.
"Mr Sedgbeer had simply knocked off the top storey, left it as a bungalow, put soil on top and grassed it over," Mr Stephenson said.

He accused Mr Sedgbeer of "overt defiance" of the planning system, the local authority and court orders: "He engaged upon a deliberate deception of the council and the court ... His contempt is obvious in both the legal sense and in the everyday meaning of the word."

In a written statement, Mr Sedgbeer said he and his wife had owned the land for 22 years and lived on it for many years, with permission, in a mobile home. The house was originally a cow barn, he said, adding that three other barns in the locality had been given



Royal Mint to

issue two-tone £2 coin in 1997

centre. It will be bigger and heavier than the £1 coin, buf will not weigh as much as two £1-

coins together. The new 50p piece will be a smaller and lighter version of the existing seven-sided com-introduced in 1969. The modifications will bring the 50p coin into line with the present 5p and 10p pieces, both of which have been made smaller and lighter

The Royal Mint would issue the new coins towards the end of 1997, the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, announced in a Commons written reply

yesterday. Commemorative £2 coins have already been minted to mark various occasions, including the 50th anniversary this year of the end of the Second World War. But the new coin will be the first new denomination to go into general cir-

A Continental-style two-tone £2 coin is on the way—and the unpopular 50p piece is to lose weight and get a facelift, it was announced yesterday.

The final design has not yet been decided, but the £2 coin will be two-tooe, with a white centre. It will be bisser and

new coins follows a lengthy consultation exercise on the future of the UK's small change involving the public and 1,000 different organisations, includ-ing banks, the retailing and vending industries, the blind and the elderly.

A spokeswoman for the Roy-al Minr said: "Broadly speaking people were happy to see the 50p reduced in size because it's quite a big coin. It does not fit

m with existing coins any more.
"Generally speaking there's been a favourable reaction towards the smaller 50p coin and the £2 one, although there are bound to be objections."

A £2 coin was favoured above a note because of its durability and cost. "A note of that value was not considered appropriate because it would be expensivo. They do not last as long as coins," the





Small change: The white-centred £2 coin – the first new de-nomination since 1983 – and the updated, lighter 50p coin



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Cultural heritage: Sir David Puttnam at the forefront of successful campaign to protect old cinema from 'tacky' development





Thwarted: The supermodels (from left) Claudia Schiffer, Elle MacPherson, Naomi Campbell and Christy Turlington

### Celebration at reprieve for Rialto

VICKY WARD

The film producer Sir David Puttnam rejoiced yesterday that the Rialto cinema, a Grade II listed cinema, built in 1913 in Piccadilly, central London, had been spared the "tacky" interi-or design planned by the su-permodels Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer, Elle Macpher-

son and Christy Turlington.
"I am just delighted that there is a chance that it can still be used as a cinema," be said. "I am very attached to it because my very first film, Melody, was premiered there in 1970. I hope that somebody like Channel 4, which is now a distributor, can

come in and use it."
Sir David had first lent his support to the campaign to preserve the Rialto as a cinema during the summer, when the supermodels who founded New York's Fashion Café decided it would be the perfect spot for a glitzy London version.

They made a £15m bid to buy the premises, owned by the soft pour-to-property tycoon

to get a decision in October. However, the opposition of Sir David, Lord Attenborough and the Rialto Trust persuaded the

council to postpone its verdict. Initially the council was sceptical about the Rialto Trust's assections that the cinema - which has one screen and a few hun-dred seats - could be financially viable as a cinema again. How-ever, the supermodels' renovation plans had to be amended

Paul Raymond, and applied to
Westminster City Council for
planning permission. They were
The installation of a huge The installation of a huge

camera lens in the foyer for people to walk through, was deemed completely unsuitable in terms of structure. "The debatable tackiness of the idea was never an issue." spokesman said firmly.

But by this week the planning behind the objectors. "We felt that the use of the building ... must remain for eotertain-

na, in Piccadilly, London, may yet have a future, if development cash is forthcoming

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## **Howard to** investigate refugee 'complaints'

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office is investigating formal complaints about the treatment by immigration offi-cials of a young asylum seeker, who arrived in the UK complaining of severe pain from multiple rape injuries. Her lawyers claim the woman

was never offered medical treatment and her case was not properly investigated. Had she not gone into hiding, she could have been returned to Zaire, where her husband, arrested by the same soldiers who attacked her, is still missing.

appeal to Michael Howard, the Honie Secretary, oot to go ahead with the weekend deportation of an East African woman, whose doctors support her claim also to have been

raped by soldiers.

The Zairean woman fled her country after she was subjected to gang rape by soldiers, and was forced to watch helplessly as they shot dead her two brothers-in-law who had tried to intervene. The soldiers, members of the President's regiment, beat her family before taking away her husband.

After a tortnous jonrney arranged by her employer, the woman, Mrs X - still too fright-ened to be named - arrived in the UK two weeks later and claimed asylum. Although she complained of pain as a result of rape, she alleges she was not referred to a doctor during either of her two interviews with immigration officials.

When her asylum plea was rejected she turned to the Immi-response to the woman's gration Appeals Adjudicator, allegations. jected she turned to the Immi-

who urged the Home Secretary to allow her entry "outside the rules". She was, said the adjudicator, "ao hooest youog woman who has suffered and witnessed appalling brutality". But, although her grim story

was believed, it was thought that the raid oo ber home was isolated and carried out in revenge for an attack on soldiers the previous night. She was, the Home Secretary decided, at no more risk than other Zaireans and her deportation was set for 2 March 1994.

It was at this point that Mrs X went underground. She found new lawyers, who, armed with News of the inquiry came as further details of her busband's MPs and refugee groups were role in the opposition Union for yesterday made a successful Democracy and Social Progress party, finally persuaded the Home Secretary to change his mind, and grant her exceptional leave to remain.

Mrs X, who oow lives in a women's refuge, said yesterday that she had "felt like a criminal" living in hiding.

Immigration and asylum lawyers and refugee groups say that her case is illustrative of the hard line now being taken, and claim that the oew Asylum and Immigration Bill, due for its second reading on Monday, places even greater obstacles in front of refugees. Plans to introduce a list of supposedly safe coun-tries, and to shorten proceedings, mean that those like Mrs

X may be wrongly turned away. Doug Henderson, Labour's immigration spokesman, said: There will be more and more cases like this - and more and more who gain access to lawyers

resorting to judicial review."

The Home Office has not responded to requests for a

### Mystery woman jailed for arsenal

fused to reveal her age, name and nationality, was jailed for two and a half years yesterday for

possessing guns and ammunition. Known to speak German and believed to be in her thirties, she refused to co-operate with the court and spent most of last month's three-day hearing in the cells.

The jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court, west London, rejected her not-guilty plea and convicted her of possessing two self-loading pistols with si-lencers, 97 blank bullets, eight rounds of teargas, four flares and a police radio scanner.

The court heard how a German-registered Opel Vectra car, hired in Berlin and found illegally parked in Soho, central London, m June was towed to a Paddington car pound. Later that day she turned up to col-lect the car. She offered what she claimed was a solid gold coin for

"frightened" woman, who re- and tried to drive off. However, pound staff blocked her exit.

forcing her to make off on foot. A few days later a holdall was spotted inside the car with a gun barrel sticking out of it, and when the woman returned she was arrested.

She denied the car was anything to do with her, and insisted an international driving licence in the name of Michelle Ilic, which was found in the vehicle, was not hers. She also told the court she was not the Michelle Hic who, on the day of her arrest, was given a conditional discharge at Mariborough Street magistrates for theft.

Owen Davies, defending, said: "She has been so put in fear by other people involved that she cannot say anything about the circumstaoces in

which she had the weapons." Passing scotence, Judge Christopher Hordern said: "I can only conclude that she was payment, but when that was re- in charge of those weapons for jected she jumped into the car a criminal purpose of others."

vajor s

Ward estigating fugee uplain



50 countries and organisations, the Prime Minister said people all over Europe were watching their deliberations.

EMMA DALY

Vozuca, near Tuzla

Bitter tears fuel the misery of

life in "new Srebrenica", a straggling village where a thou-

sand women and children

mourn the men they lost in the

savage Serb assault on old Sre-

but no running water, electric-ity or humanitarian aid. The

refugees want to return home,

but the chances are they will re-

main in Vozuca, despite the

deal of the right of return.

come home. The murder of

thousands of people after the

MICHAEL SHERIDAN

day to take the tough decisions

back into the abyss of war.

London, attended by more than

Diplomatic Editor ADRIAN BRIDGE

Budapest

also present, that a 60,000strong Nato force and a large international aid effort stood ready to help them entrench the peace settlement next year. John Major called on the in-"Many of the faces I see ternational community yester-

around this table I saw around this table five months ago," needed to make it "unthink- Mr Major said. "We met then able" for anyone to drag Bosnia against a sombre and menacing background." Mr Major was re-Opening a two-day Peace ferring to the last London Con-Implementation Conference in ference in July, which marked the turning point in Western resolve to use air power against the Bosman Serbs.

Mr Major said the conference had to take the decision that the He told the warring parties, "very hard won" and "fragile" whose foreign ministers were peace in Bosnia would not fail.

dream of revenge

back to. I have lost three men,

my two sons and my husband.

I just have one daughter left.

They tried to escape through the

forests and they just disap-peared." Mrs Ibrahimovic said,

weeping. While the women are

filled with distress, their

ow "My mother stayed in the

house because she was too old

to leave," she said. "My husband

was captured by the Serbs in Po-

tocari and they took him away

don't know what happened. I

ry, most centred around the

Dutch UN base at Potocari.

brenica, and nourish the seeds teenaged children ignore the

of hatred and revenge. scene and chat amongst them-Vozuca was taken from the selves blank because of the hor-

Serbs in September and more than 1,200 refugees from Srebrenica are housed in what was uncle - 45 of my relatives."

once the Serb half of the village. Mrs Gabelic is, in all likeli-There is some reconstruction, hood, another Srebrenica wid-

promise in the Dayton peace from me - he was 51. We just

"If our men came home, we could live here, at least for a firing squad but I'm not sure, it while," said Hunja Gabelic Her new housemates, Mina Ibrahimovic and Ajsa Mehmedovic, agreed. But their men will not leach refuge has a horror sto-

fall of Srebrenica in July led, in where Muslims fled for pro-

the end, to the Dayton peace tection from the Serb assault.

talks, but that is little consola- Witnesses-say the Dutch, ex-

The conference is intended to put into practice the accord reached in Dayton, Ohio, last of the head of the mission to sumonth under which Serbs. Muslims and Croats agreed to end the fighting in Bosnia. The accord will be formalised at a ceremony in Paris next week.

The ministers were expected to agree on the nomination of the former Swedish prime minister, Carl Bildt, to the post of High Representative to oversee the political and civilian reconstruction effort.

Behind the scenes, however, an unedifying squabble was in progress over the allocation of high-profile jobs and political Srebrenica widows

defend the pocket, ordered the

Bosnian army to pull back to

safety. It did, but the French UN

commander vetoed air raids,

and the Serbs rolled in to the

gates of the UN camp. About 8,000 people are still missing.

quarters in Potocari. It was so

full, so many people. Unprofor

invited us in to hide. We ex-

pected some protection," said

Huso Tusunovic, 62, another

new resident of Voznca. Instead. thousands of terrified Bosnians

saw their nemesis - General

Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb

"Instead of protecting us, they just sold us," Mr Tusmovic

said bitterly. "I wish we were in

a position to kill all Unprofor,

because we sacrificed 100 Mus-

lims for each UN soldier [al-

brenica's sense of betrayal.

"We went to the UN head-

France and the United States are in dispute about the choice pervise elections in Bosnia under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). France and other EU After the experience of tanstates are unhappy about the

a European to get the post. There is also a lower-key disagreement between Washington and Paris over the safeguards available to the Serb population of those suburbs of Sarajevo which are due to pass into the hands of the Muslim-

choice of an American diplo-

mat, Robert Frowick, and want

cessity is to organise the deployment and command of the 20,000 US troops who will join British and French units to form the backbone of the Implementation Force (I-For).

gled lines of authority in the illfated United Nations mission, all key governments are determined to keep the command structure clear. Yesterday also saw the ef-

fective burial of the international Conference on former Yugoslavia, which operated from the UN headquarters in Geneva, The UN Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-

Britain believes the urgent ne- Ghali, was on hand to preserve a facade of dignity at the proceedings but he and his officials will play no further part in the politics of the year ahead.

There was extensive backstage negotiation in London vesterday over the future of Eastern Slavonia, the last region of Croatia still controlled by separatist Serbs. The Serbs are due to hand over to control to an international authority and yield sovereignty to Croatia after two years. But details of the agreement remain in dispute and the region remains a potential cause of a new war.

Many ministers at the conference had flown in from an

OSCE meeting in Budapest, countries agreed to assume re-

that hrokered the 1975 Helsinki Act. It includes the US and Russia. With only a small secretariat in Vienna, OSCE memchallenge with trepidation.

sponsibility for overseeing and monitoring elections, monitoring human rights and drawing up arms control agreements. The OSCE role, which was outlined in the peace accord in Dayton, Ohio, marks a leap forward for the organisation, which grew out of the East-West forum

where the row about Mr Frowick emerged. Foreign ministers of the 53 participating



The 'Independent's Christmas appeal for the children of the former Yugoslavia has now raised £52, 698.70. We are asking readers to support four charities which are working to help child victims of the war in

the Balkans: Child Advocacy International aims to bring up to 100 sick children to Britain for treatment that they could not obtain at home;

Save the Children is helping children who have been separated from their families, coun-

selling and reuniting them; The Red Cross is tooking after refugee camps and is linking people through its messaging network;

War Child plans to build a £2.5m music therapy centre in Mostar, and to send urgentlyneeded prosthetics to wound-

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work and the women cannot

even afford the bus fare to Tuzla 10 seek news of their men. Dzemal has installed a waterwheel in the river, to run a light hulb and a car radio that plays

Bitter memories: Esme Halilovic, a refugee from Srebrenica, outside her new home in Vuzoca

lowed by General Mladic to leave Srebrenica after the fall]." The thirst for vengeance is unusual among Bosnians on the government side. Few readily mother nodded: "Everyone is express such sentiments, and ready to continue fighting bethey are a testament to Srecause we all lost someone."

The mayor of Srebrenica, "I'm willing to fight to go back," said Dzemal Gabelic, a Fahrudin Salkovic, now lives in Tuzla. "There is such rebellion young soldier who walked out and hatred in the minds of tion to Mrs. Gabelic pecting Nato air strikes to and reached safety 12 days people from Srebrenica. It is dif-

later. "I'm not tired of war. 1 ficult to wipe that out and get want to fight for my town." His them to forget. No family sur-mother nodded: "Everyone is vived unscathed," he said. "Realistically it will be difficult to go back, but that idea will

never leave them." Mrs Gabelic has had no news of her mother, left behind in a village near Srebrenica. "We just had to run, we had no time to

shut the door of the house. I had just begun to make bread and I just left it. My mother was in bed. We had no time to say

good-bye." she cried. The three families sharing the house live now on hread and a few tins of food: the fields are blanketed by snow and peppered with mines, there is no

Bosnian folk music. "In Srebrenica every family had a wa-ter-wheel," Mrs Ibrahimovic

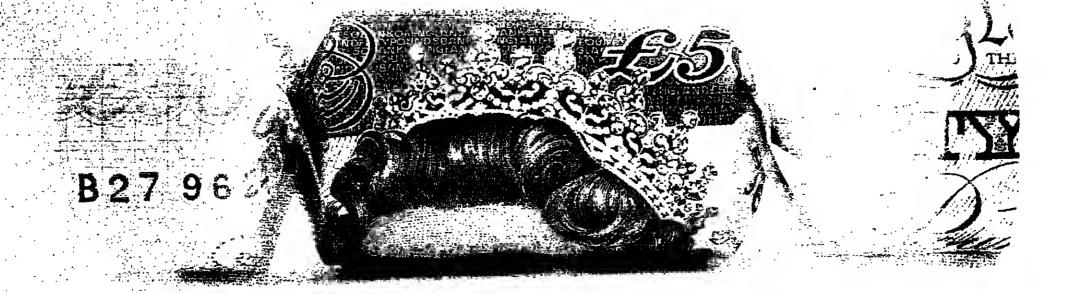
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### international

France in revolt: As strikes show no sign of easing, government and unions move cautiously towards talks to find a solution

# Strike bosses face deal dilemma

MARY DEJEVSKY

As the strikers and the French government gradually edge towards the talks that are inevitably going to end the past two weeks of mass protests, much will depend on the indi-viduals who have emerged as marshals, if not exactly leaders. of the strike movement. They are Mare Blondel, leader of the Force Ouvrière, and Louis Viannet of the CGL On the sidetimes, though, is a

figure who is no less crucial to the negotiating process: Nicole Notat, the 47-year-old head of the socialist-orientated CFDT. who has been distinguished by her moderate, and often isolated, stand on Alain Juppe's controversial social security re-forms. Ms Notat's political sym-pathic are in the left, but her penchant for plain speaking, her willingness to stand alone, and her fair complexion have drawn comparisons in France with "Madame Thatcher".

By comparison, both Mr Blondel and Mr Viannet, who are in their 50s, come across in manner and language as oldstyle trade unionists, whose preoccupation is the "hard won social benefits" of their memhers. Both, however, have a good deal of personal and prossional rivalry which they only reluctantly suppressed in the hope of seeing the end of the

Juppe government. Mr Blondel is the more demay have sharpened his words ceptive character. Despite his proletarian gruffness, he is a and made any compromise tem-porarily more difficult than it lawyer, and also a gourmet; appreciating the restaurants used by the company directors he necent of all public sector em-ployees, Mr Blondel, Mr Vian-nct and Ms Notat are handicapped in their capacity to gotiates with

He has a rhetorical tendency to sound totally uncompro-mising, while carefully leaving an escape route. His legalistic distinction this week between Mr Juppe's "consensus-seek-ing", and his own insistence on "negotiations" was a characteristic example. He also has a sense for where power lies, agreeing to sit on the commiltee which has until now agreed the welfare budget, and talking behind the scenes to Mr Chirac even before be was elected president. Now, however, he is said to be disillusioned.

Mr Viannet gives the impression of being a genuinely old-fashioned union leader. whose style has been cramped in recent weeks by his need for e-election at the CGT's con-cress this week. The coincidence and Mr Viannet realising be-latedly that here was a movere-election at the CGT's conof the congress with the strikes ment crying out for leadership.



Street clash: Protesters try to dodge tear gas during demonstrations over welfare reform in Nantes, eastern France

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### Mediator looks for light at the end of tunnel

Paris - The French govern-ment and trade union representatives seemed yesterday to be cautiously looking for a way out of the two-week-old protests that have halted much public transport, closed schools and threatened air services, writes Mary Dejevsky.
The government-appointed

mediator for the national railway company, SNCE Jean Mat-teoli, started work yesterday afternoon, less than 24 hours af-ter his appointment, receiving leaders of all the striking unions. The fact that the unions agreed to see Mr Matteoli, a former minister who is described as an expert conciliator, was greeted as a sign that the rail disoute at least might be amenable to a settlement.

As well as objecting to the government's overall plans for welfare reform, the railwaymen have a special grievance in a restructuring plan that was due to be finalised in the middle of this month. Designed to reduce SNCF's accumulated debt and large operating losses, the proposals include prorision for the regionalisation of loss-making branch lines, which railwaymen believe will lead to closures and job losses.

however, there was evidence of confusion on the government side as to precisely what might be included in any talks. The unions have asked that the whole plan be suspended, but the industry minister, Franck Borotra, said yesterday the government had no intention of withdrawing it. The director of SNCF, who insisted last week that the plan was his and not the

Strugg

MASONIC

Although unions in other possibility of wide-ranging talks on pensions and other questions offered by the social affairs minister, Jacques Barrot, there was no sign of the public sector strikes cracking, and on the main question of welfare reform, the government and unions still seemed far apart.

Having shelved the planned fiscal reform for at least a year, proposed a special commission to examine not only the terms of public sector pensions, but also their equivalence with those in the private sector, and offered talks on the rail plan, the government has now made concessions on almost every issue except the principle and main structure of the welfare reform. But there was no sign yesterday of strikes din

### Soft centre to **Kohl-Chirac** hard core

**TONY BARBER Europe Editor** 

Prospects for launching a single currency in 1999 will continue to preoccupy European Union leaders next week as they prepare for a summit of heads of state and government in Madrid.

The meeting, which is the cli-max of Spain's six-month EU presidency, is expected to agree a name for the single currency, and define the steps by which the EU will move to monetary union in the next three years.

The leaders are also due to discuss bringing into the EU the former Communist countries in central and eastern Europe, and the preparations for next year's Inter-Governmental Conference on reforming EU institutions. In what looked like a coded message to Britaire President Jacques Chirae of France and Chancellor Helmui Kohl of Germany proposed in Baden-Baden on Thursday that no country should be free to veto closer EU integration if other member states wish to press ahead.

The proposal was more a restatement of the existing Franco-German position than a bold initiative, and seemed to fall short of calls by Germany's ruling Christian Democrats last year for a "hard core" of EU states committed to deeper integration.

Significantly, the Baden-Baden meeting did not produce an explicit demand for more extensive powers for the European Parliament, Instead, in what looked like a German concession to French doubts about giving the legislature too much authority. Mr Kohl and Mr Chirac referred only to the nced to "bind the European Parliament and national parliaments more than hitherto into the process of European integration".

Nevertheless, the two leaders reaffirmed their belief in extending the use of qualified

majority voting in EU decisionmaking, a point on which they have little common ground with John Major's Government.

was going to be.

Despite representing between them more than 50 per

negotiale with the government

by two factors. The discord be-

tween them weakens their collective authority, hut a peculiarity of the current dis-oute also calls into question

their claim to be leading it. Three weeks ago, when the

welfare reforms were an-

nounced, and even two weeks

ago, when the transport strikes began in earnest and other

public sector workers joined in,

there was almost no visible

leadership of the protesters. For the first few weeks of the

protest, at least, the initiative

seemed to lie with the rank and file protestors, with Mr Blondel

They also called for a common policy on asylum and immigration, an idea that does not appeal to Britain and may prove difficult to implement in the light of French concerns about the Schengen agreement on abolishing internal EU frontiers.

Far from using the summit to discuss whether 1999 remains a realistic date for launching monetary union, EU leaders intend to settle the irksome question of the single currency's name once and for all. The outcome could reveal a great deal about the relative weight of Germany. France, and the European Commission in the monetary union dehate.

France and the Commission have tended to favour the eeu. the name attached to the EU's present notional currency. However, Mr Kohl's government fears that the ecu will prove unsellable to Germans. already sceptical of monetary union, because the existing ecu has weakened against the German mark over the years.

Germany would prefer the currency to earry the prefix "Euro"; Eurofrancs in France, Euroschillings in Austria, and so on. But some Commission officials say the name is ugly, and untikely to win the popular approval needed for monetary union to work.

Several other suggested names - ducat, crown, florin and franken -- are considered dark-horse candidates. But Spain's Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, said his countrymen would never accept a currency whose name sounded like Franco, the late dictator.

A failure at the summit to solve the matter would east yet more doubt over the project starting on time. EU leaders also need to fix a date - the end of 1997 or early 1998 - for announcing which countries have qualified for the single currency.



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# Struggling Zhirinovsky tries sex appeal

Russian elections: The man who dominated the last poll for the Duma has lost the power to shock

HELEN WOMACK

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, at risk of being eclipsed by a new gener-ation of Russian hardliners, munists out in front with an exappears to be getting desperate. He may still be a bogeyman in the West for his nationalism and nuclear sabre-rattling, but he looks as if he is losing his power to shock and fascinate at home. So he is resorting to sex appeal and mud-slinging in the bone of attracting votes in this month's Duma elections.

The lesson of the last such poll in 1993 was clear: never make any predictions about Russian politics. Then, Mr Zhirinovsky, widely dismissed as a mitcase, swept in and grabbed the largest block of seats in parliament. Not one of the pundits

saw him coming.

Mindful of bow he will jeer at them if they turn out to be wrong again, analysts are being very cautious about dismissing Mr Zhirinovsky this time. But all the signs are that his star is waning as the resurgent Communists look poised to win the protest votes be took in 1993.

And General Alexander Endowment for Peace. Lebed, whose voice booms like a cannon compared with Mr Zhirinovsky's angry rasp, has

with him for the patriotic constituency.

The latest opinion poll, published by Sevodnya newspaper this week, showed the Compected 12 per cent of the vote, followed by two different groups of economic reformers and the Women of Russia. Only then did Mr Zhirinovsky's misleadingly named Liberal De-mocratic Party of Russia (LDPR) feature with a predicted 4 per cent. He was sharing the expected nationalist vote with General Lebed, right

behind with 3 per cent.
Opinion polls are worth intle here, of course. More indicative of Mr Zhirinovsky's shaky position are his own

campaign tactics.
While others are more or less addressing the issues in their television adverts - General Lebed's show prison bars crashing down on a bribe-taking bureaucrat - the LDPR leader has resorted to sex in an attempt to arouse the voters. "He is going for the lumpen vote," com-mented Michael McFaul at the Moscow Centre of the Carnegie

The clip shows a middleaged man in bed with his wife, Zhirinovsky's angry rasp, has hair in curiers. "Who are you go-now emerged to compete ing to vote for, Dusya?" asks the



escreen: Vladimir Zhirinovsky's campaign advertisements exude confidence, but his star is waning

busband. "For him, of course," she purts. All the others are just too awful." Perhaps the jokey advert could be interpreted as an expression of Mr Zhirinovsky's supreme confidence. that he believes he is so well

known he does not need to repeat his promises of making the world tremble before Great Russia. But his vicious verbal attack on President Boris Yeltsin this week suggests something

abused his domestic opponents and democratic politicians around the world, but he has been careful never to be rude about the Kremlin leader, especially during the President's

Mr Zhirinovsky may have two bouts of heart disease this year. On Wednesday, however, he broke his own rule and appeared on television, ridiculing Mr Yeltsin in a manner which could backfire. For many Russians, though critical of their

Photograph: Sergei Piminov / Reuter

President, dislike seeing a man being kicked when he is down. Mr Yeltsin was like Leonid Brezhnev at the end of his life, sneered Mr Zhirinovsky, "He is a puppet. They bring him in and The LDPR leader then

went on to claim the credit for giving the Russian leader heart failure. "He was laid up in the Kremlin in July after talking to me. I said, Boris Nikolayevich, the country's in a mess, the factonics are at a standstill, the people are hungry, sick and dying.' He turned dark red, and then

all green, and fell ill,"
Mr Zhirinovsky was quite different when he first appeared on the political scene hack in 1990. It was perhaps suspicious that a man who had been deelared *persona non grata* in Turkey in the 1970s should be the first to set up an independent party after the Communists renounced their monopoly on power. But he came across then as a liberal in the Western sense of the word.

In the 1991 presidential election, which Mr Yelisin won, Mr Zhirinovsky did surprisingly well by promising the voters free vodka. Only in the parliamentary elections two years ago did his totalitarian tendencies and imperial ambitions become unmistakable, with his promise that Russian soldiers would wash their boots in the Indian Ocean" white foreign objectors would risk nuclear attack and domestic dissidents be sent by cattle truck to the Arctic

Many Russians, disgruntled with economic reform, sent a warning to Mr Yelisin by voting for Mr Zhirinovsky in 1993. But this time they see the stakes are too high and will choose the

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### Papandreou succession stirs Greek paranoia

ANDREW GUMBEL

The Cold War may he over. peace in the Balkans may be at hand, but in Greece that old chestnut, the International Conspiracy Theory, is alive and well. It goes something like

Andreas Papandreou, ultimate symbol of Greek defiance to the outside world, lies gravely ill in hospital, and manoeuvres to replace him as prime minister are in full swing. But it would be quite wrong to think that his succession will be decided within his party, Pasok, or even within Greece. No. if you believe what you read in the Greek media, the country's future is being decided by shady. scheming mandarins in Western

Europe and the United States. Around 10 days ago, a group of Italian journalists interviewed the Defence Minister. Gerasi-mos Arsenis, who at the time was considered a solid government technocrat but little else. All of a sudden Mr Arsenis became not only a candidate for the premiership, but a candidate foisted on the country from the outside. "The Italians hack Ar-

senis," ran the Greek headlines. A few days later a New York Times correspondent noticed the commotion and wrote that Mr Arsenis was one of a number of undeclared candidates apparently under considera-tion. Ah, the Greeks concluded, this is a candidature orchestrated from both sides of

And so the game went on. Costas Simitis, the leading anti-Papandreou dissident within Pasok, was anointed the "German candidate, partly because his brother is a noted academic in North Rhine-Westphalia. although he appeared to be in for some competition from the Interior Minister, Akis Tsachodzopoulos, who has a German wife.

All of this was, of course, absurd. The Italians had written about Mr Arsenis only because nobody else would grant them an interview at this uncertain juncture (and, in fact, the Italian business community is believed to favour the staunchly pro-European Mr Simitist. The New York Times correspondent. meanwhile, wrote the offending piece before she had time even to relephone the US embassy. As for the Germans, they seem genuinely outraged that anyone should accuse them of anything so low as interference in other people's affairs.

The speculation is typical of a country very much wrapped up in its own problems, where their place in the world. This is hard information on politics is scarce. Pasok is so much in awe hotel room puts it: "Athens is of its founding leader that no-body dares challenge his au-the map. And every point on the thority, even though he has map is Athens. Because Athens tubes attached to his lungs, is the centre of all the centres kidneys, stomach and windpipe of the world." That's quite and cannot breathe without some responsibility.

mechanical support. Nobody can quite believe he will ever quit politics or die, and indeed the latest reports are that he is sitting up and whispering the

With the domestic media thus too timid to talk openly about the future, the country turns to the foreign press for information, all the while tapping into its old paranoias about outside manipulation. A surprising number of people honestly believe that the first thing Bill Clinton does every morning is ask his Chief of Staff for an update on Greece.

Thanks to the whisperings, Mr Arsenis has been catapulted from nowhere into pole position for the leadership. An opinion poll published a few days ago showed him narrowly leading his rivals; and the man acting as Pasok's kingmaker, the Environment Minister. Costas Latiotis, promptly summoned

Quite how the foreign powers are supposed to force their preferences on to the Pasok parliamentary party, the body required by the constitution to



of the conspiracy theory

make the actual decision, is something of a mystery. Unless, of course, you subscribe to the conspiracy theory behind all the other conspiracy theories; that the whole suspicion of foreign involvement is in itself a plot orchestrated by Greece's powerful media barons to promote their own favoured candidates.

No doubt there is a grain of truth in all these suppositions after all, foreign powers and media proprietors certainly have their specific agendas. But the theories reveal above all the special way in which the Greeks see how the tourist brochure in my

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# Food aid runs out in starving N Korea

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Half a million people in Com-muoist North Korea face a winter of cold, disease and starvation unless foreign donors bail out a United Nations aid programme which is rapidly running out of cash and supplies.

A liaison office established in

the capital, Pyongyang, by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) will close on 23 Decomber unless 15,000 tonnes of rice can be raised for victims of the worst floods in a century.

The WFP arrived in North Korea in November in response to an appeal by the Pyongyang government, after summer storms washed away 1.5 million tonnes of grain. For the past fortnight it has been supervis-ing the distribution of food in the areas worst hit by the floods but the supplies will soon run out, during the middle of the

North Korean winter, when temperatures fall as low as -18C.

Doctors with the French charity Médécins sans Frontières (MSF) have found severe maloutrition among children and prognant mothers. "It will he a long, cold, hungry winter," says Trevor Page, the WFP's country director in Pyoogyang. "Some of the kids MSF are treating up there could be from Rwanda - wizened little childreo with pot bellies. People are starting to become restless and aogry because they are oot getting enough food."

North Korea, the last of the old Stalinist dictatorships, has suffered poor harvests for most of the decade; eveo before the floods, it was predicting a deficit of 1.97 million tonnes. But the government's policy of "Juche", or self-reliance, had always prevented Pyongyang from asking for foreign help. In Juoe, however, an agree-

ment was reached to receive 300,000 tonnes of rice from Japan - traditionally the object of the North's most vehement anti-imperialist rhetoric. The shipments were officially termed "loans", but the deal ran into trouble after officials in Pyong-yang claimed that the rice was being offered as compensation Commercial deliveries from the Thai government were also suspended after the North failed to pay for shipments. And there have been fears that rice desig-

Theo in September came the upprecedented request for multinational assistance. A UN survey team reported that 20,250 tonnes of grain, worth \$8.8m North Korea through the winter, people for 90 days. But Pyong-

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nated for starving peasants has

been diverted to the country's

yang's reputation for making po-litical capital out of aid is hampering the WFP effort. An international appeal raised less than \$200,000. The first rice shipment came to only 5,140 tonnes, little more than a quarter of the required amount.

The effects of widespread starvation on the political stability of North Korea are difficult to predict. Since the death last year of the founding president, Kim Il Sung, outsiders have had little idea who is in control. The stories of defectors to the South have fuelled speculation about a son, Kim Jong II, and the milliona state of war readiness.

UN staff have reported tense scenes in the starving villages: in one incident food intended for one part of the country had to be distributed prematurely, enough to feed half a million after a truck was mobbed by angry peasants oo the way.



Communist Party chief, Do Muoi, in Red carpet treatment: Cuban President Fidel Castro meets

Hanoi during his first visit to Vietnam in 22 years

INBRIEF

#### Madrid shlelds Paris from world's wrath

Brussels - Spain, anxious to keep the diplomatic peace at oext week's European Union summit, has been pleading with EU countries not to vote against Paris in a forthcoming United Nations vote oo ouclear testing. Diplomats said yesterday that EU for-eign ministers were asked directly by Madrid this week to abstain in the UN General Assembly vote scheduled for Tnesday. Ten of the EU's 15 members came out against France in a preliminary vote in November that condemned ouclear testing. Paris reacted angrily, cancelling several meetings with EU partners and calling their opponents hypocrites.

Reuter

China's chosen child enthroned in Tibet Peking - Gyaltseo Norbu was enthroned yesterday as the most

important Buddhist leader remaining in Tibet in a hurried ceremooy his Chinese backers hope will bolster their rule over the Himalayan region. With a top Communist Party official at his side, the six-year-old boy was proclaimed the 11th Panchen Lama in-side the 15th-century Tashi Lhunpo monastery in central Tibet. the traditional seat of his predecessors. The eothronement and his selection 10 days ago culminates six mooths of work by Peking to weaken the authority of the Dalai Lama. Tibet's exiled spiritual leader. The Dalai Lama has recognised 6-year-old Gedhun Chockyi Nyima as the Panchen Lama.

Deadly disease back in circulation

Geneva - A man in the Ivory Coast has been confirmed as having the deadly and highly-contagious Ebola disease, the World Health Organisatioo said yesterday. Asked about the laboratory results on blood samples taken from the patient, from a village in Liberia, a WHO spokesman said: "Yes, an Ebola case has been confirmed in Ivory Coast." The laboratory tests were carried out at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

Reuter

French left lost for words

Paris - Forty percent of French adults lack basic literacy skills, but France cut the embarrassing fact out of an international survey released this week. Results of the survey by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development compared adult literacy among seven nations, but France abrupt-ly pulled out of the survey and had officials excise all references to France from the document, according to Albert Tuijnman, a survey organiser at the Education and Training Divisioo of the OECD. The study, conducted last year, indicated that in Sweden, about 7.5 per cent of 16- to 65-year-olds were deficient in literacy skills. The study did not rank the couotries, but Mr Tuijnman made his own ranking this way: Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, the United States and Poland. Had the figures for France been meotioned, the French would have been secood to last, Mr Tuijnman said.

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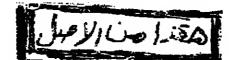
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### international

Mayoral election: An interview in the shower backfires on candidate in liberal San Francisco

## Democrat exposes his naked ambition

DAVID USBORNE San Francisco

Even here under the Golden
Gate, all good things must come to an end. On Tuesday
San Francisco will lower the curtain on its latest political derby
—the two month-old sace for its

sider put it: "Jordan is like cold oatmeal thrown against a wall."

Back in November, Mr Jordan is like cold oatmeal thrown against a wall."

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Back in November, Mr Jordan is like cold oatmeal thrown against a wall."

Back in November, Mr Jordan is like cold oatmeal thrown against a wall." next mayor - and by any stan-dards it has been a rollicking and, as belits this city, thoroughly left-of-centre affair.

city's residents are expected to make a little history. Ahead in the polis in this two-man run-off

The stunt, recorded in picture, the first round on 7 Novem-tures (cropped just above the ber had a field of 27 candidates waist) in all the local papers, is Willie Brown, Speaker of the proved an unmitigated disaster California Assembly for the last for Mr Jordan, who was subsective to a pologise.

are overwhelmingly Democrat, a certain decorum and a certain so much so that the only Remainthority from the office." publican candidate in Novem-

San Francisco can be an extreme kind of place in the best sense," remarked a local political consultant, David Binder. than race, was: "Twe heard of "It's typical that at a time when the rest of the country seems to damn near see through this be tipping more and more to the mother. But the mayor anguly right and conformity, we are reaffirming our tradition of racial language publicly to insult tipping to the left and non-

in terms. While in Washington, it may be suicidal to court the gay constituency, here, where the gay population is large and 1980, he wielded total control vocal, it is vital to do so. Both over state legislators and carned remaining candidates are Scraus a reputation as a consummate hing for the former supporters deal maker. His tentacular conof Roberta Achtenberg, the tacts with many of the most im-openly-lesbian former member portant state industries, such as of the Clinton administration, who came third in November with 27 per cent of the vote.

chief, is in trouble for several reasons. Though a Democrat, he is decidedly more conservthe city streets of the homeless and to privatise some government services. Most of all, though, he is a rather stodgy public figure, in stark contrast with the flamboyant style of Mr. Brown, who has a taste for

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sports cars and thousand-dollar Italian suits. As one Brown insider put it: Jordan is like cold

home and challenged him to give them an interview with all three stripped naked in the shower. The mayor obliged, In voting meanwhile, the apparently unaware of the presence of a photographer who got busy taking full-body portraits.

incumbent, Frank Jordan, Mr., Even to San Franciscans, it Brown will be San Francisco's looked like a serious error of The politics of this city have always been different from the porters it was simply offensive.

"It contains did not belo them," always been different from the porters it was simply offensive rest of America. It remains "It certainly did not help them, stubbornly untouched by the confirmed a Brown spokes-Republican "revolution" of woman. "He is the mayor, af-Newt Gingrich. San Franciscans ter all, and people still expect

publican candidate in Novem- In his giee, Mr Brown trig-ber got 2 per cent of the vote. gered further controversy by implying that Mr Jordan was a white mother. The Brown quote, to do with tan-lines rather things being white, but you can

conformity." Mr. Brown, 61, has loomed In San Franciscan politics, become contradiction three decades and is widely touted as the most successful hlack politician in America. As the Speaker in Sacramento since the tobacco lobby, have left frim open to attack for being too bound up with special interests. Mr Jordan, a former police. But there is little sign that such concerns are worrying many

The poet Maya Angelou has ative than Mr Brown and has at-travelled to the city to support tempted in his first term to rid Brown. At a fund-raising dinner she exhorted San Franciscans to vote for Mr Brown and change working an old spiritual refrain. Ms Angelou concluded: "Moving out of darkness, mov ing toward a Brown morning.



Rollicking race: Frank Jordan (left) and Willie Brown are in the run-off for mayor of San Francisco next week

#### Jackson 'faking health problems' IOHN CARLIN Washington by an electrolytic imbalance. Michael Jackson is in questionable shape. His personal physician said yesterday that he

would remain in hospital over the weekend with suspected cardiac arrhythmia, a potentially life-threatening condition caused by an irregular heartbeat, after collapsing during a rehearsal in New York on Wednesday night.

But La Toya Jackson, the androgynous pop star's look-alike weird sister, said he was faking it. "I know all of Michael's little moves and his little schemes that he pulls when he thinks he needs attention. It's a publicity move," she said in a phone call to the New York Daily News.

A statement issued by Michael Jackson's doctor, who flew from California to attend to the emergency, said he was in a serious but stable condition and would "require several days of critical care, monitoring and treatment". Dr Allan Metzger said his patient was being treat-

ed for dehydration, gastroen-teritis and irregularities in the heart, liver and kidneys, caused

La Toya's suggestion that the imbalance might lie closer to the brain was partly supported by reports that the King of Pop is suffering from an acute confidence crisis. He has not been on a concert tour since his macriage to Lisa-Marie Presley last year: at the MTV Video Music Awards in September he lipsynched to a recorded song, and brought along an audience of extras to cheer for him.

He was no less anxious about two concerts he was due to give Beacon Theatre. The show, which has now been indefinitely postponed, was to have been hroadcast worldwide. Jackson, who insisted the broadcast should not be carried live. demonstrated his despair at the prospect of facing a disapproving audience by giving away the tickets free to members of his most ardent fan clubs instead of selling them to the public.





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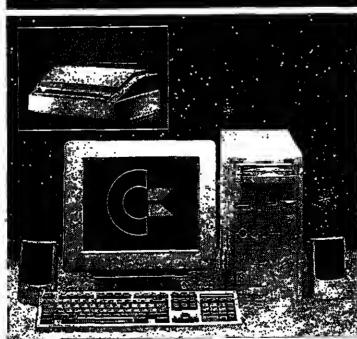
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# Despair assails Palestinians trapped in a gilded cage

Arafat's peace agreement has left two former PLO fighters abandoned in a UN no man's land. Robert Fisk reports

Naqqoura, southern Lebanon — Khamis Khodr has grown silent and rescotful. Mohamed al-Gulani is at turns geoerous and angry. It is difficult to live in a gilded cage.

In the seven months and 23 days they have spent inside the United Nations headquarters in Southern Lebanon, trapped between the Israelis who deported them and the Lebanese who refused to receive them. Mr Khodr and Mr al-Gulani have moved from hope to despair.

Their refuge, through a humanitarian worker", has turned into a "golden jail". They have food, beds, books, television, the use of a phone, friends among the UN soldiers and £150 each a month but no passport, no country and no home.

"My life is over," Mr Khodr says and he means it, his eyes wandering over the endless blue wastes of the Mediterranean beyond the UN's barbed wire. Deported from Israel after serving prison seotences for attempted attacks on tsraelis he served 23 years for taking a rifle across the Jordan river to the occupiedWest Bank not long after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, and Mr al-Gulani 10 years for driving a carload of explosives near Israeli-occupied Ramallah - both men were turned back by Lebanese soldiers the moment they were expelled

Back to the spring they racli and Western journalists thought a few complaints from who trooped to the UN HQ to the UN would secure their future. Their expulsion by Israel to Lehanon, in contravention of Articles 45 and 49 of the Geneva Convention, could surely be

Prematurely old at 58 and

with a quarter-century of Israeli jails behind him, Mr Khodr, a PLO loyalist who would now like to go to Gaza, is in no state to take up arms again. Besides, Yasser Arafat's peace agreement with Israel means history has passed him by. Mr al-Gulani would be content merely to join his brother Omar in Jordan. But the Israelis refused both men permission to re-cross the border, claiming they were still security threats. Jordan then announced that Mr al-Gulani was a threat to its own

When humanitarian workers tried to arrange a family visit from Omar to Mohamed al-Gulani, the Lebanese refused him permission to pass through their territory from Jordan; Lebanon was still technically at war with Israel, they said. Now that Amman had made peace with Tel Aviv, he could surely travel through Israel. But the Israelis refused. Omar called each day, to the phone in the UN's military police guardroom, but had nothing to say to

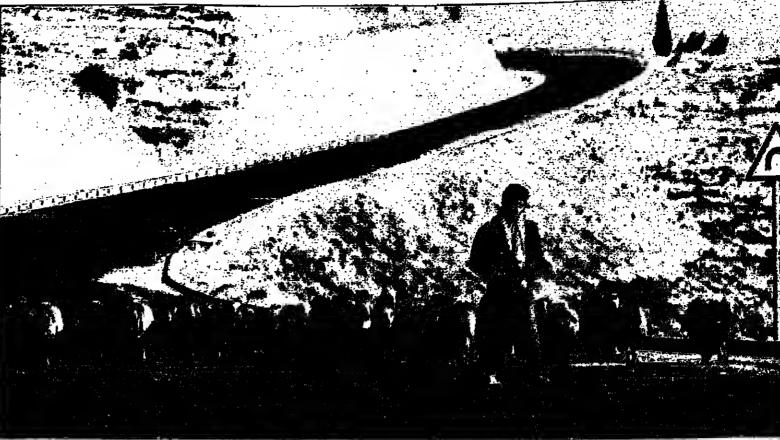
interview the two Palestinians. had, like the rest of the world, forgotten them. In desperation, Mr al-Gulani wrote a personal letter to Mr Arafat. pleading with the PLO leader to help them. Mr Khodr, he wrote, would be happy to live under the control of his old PLO masters in "free" Gaza. But Gaza is oot free, because the Is-

raelis have the final say on who

may or may not enter Mr

Arafat's little fiefdom. "I wrote a ooc-page letter to Abu Amar [Mr Arafat] in July," Mr al Gulani says. " A few days later, I received a phone call from someone in the PLO office in Gaza, called Dr Sami. He said Arafat had given his permission for both of us to move to Gaza, but the Israelis had vetoed our going there on the grounds of security. That's all. Nothing else. And we are still here."
Mr Khodr is building a cement wall for the UN soldiers,

partly to show his gratitude for their personal kindness, while Mr al-Gulani wanders the camp, buying clothes and shoes at the PX store, watching a movie on Irish history given him by Irish troops, playing football and chess with his UN pratectors, receiving a monthly joint stipend of £300 shared with Mr



While shepherds watched: A Palestinian leading his flock of goats along an incomplete road which is being built to link Jerusalem with Jewish settlements on the West Bank. The PLO disputes the legality of the Israeli action:

Photograph: Jim Hollander / Reuten

The two Palestinians listen to the Arabic service of the BBC and Israeli radio. When Mr

tried to cure Mr al-Gulani's ear infection and asthma but the two Palestinians suffer the twin curse of international generos-

want to start new lives," Mr al-Gulani says.

"We have served our sentences. We have paid for what we did for the PLO. Now the

rael, but we rot here without a future. Why? I get angry, even at the UN. They want to send a guard with me wherev-er I go. They are kind, but what can I do?"

It was one of their United Nations protectors who found the

## **Electoral** boost from Rabin death fades away

PATRICK COCKBURN

As Israel emerges from the trauma of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Party has been alarmed to discover that the political landscape has not changed markedly in its favour, and that it will have difficulty winning the election in October oext year.

Latest opinioo polls show Shimoo Peres, the Prime Minister, benefiting politically from his predecessor's murder, but the emergence of three new centre parties is robbing Labour of critical votes. If the election were held oow, Labour would win 44 seats in the Knesset, the same number it took in 1992. Its left-wing ally, Meretz, would win nine seats, instead of 12.

The danger for Labour is less Likud, the principal right-wing opposition party, than a hreak-away faction known as the Third Way, which opposes Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for a peace treaty with Syria.

The latest poll suggests that this party would take four Labour seats with another two going to a Russian immigrants' party that was set up by Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet dissident. In 1992 most of the 600,000 Russian Jewish immigrants voted Labour.

"The country remains deeply divided," a senior member of the Labour party said. "The gap between the two sides is unbridgeable."

The division between the secular and the religious, which is a traditional factor in Israeli politics, has been greatly exacerbated by the withdrawal from the West Bank, which religious nationalists believe is land that was given by God to Israel. two slot on the Likud ticket.

Meretz hold the orthodox religious leadership and Binyamin Netanyahu, the leader of Likud, responsible for setting the stage for Rahin's death.

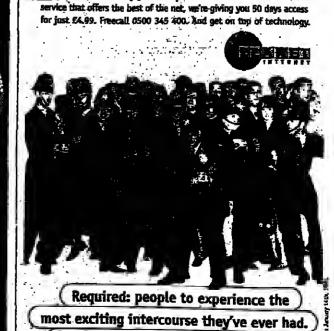
Mr Netanyahu has been telling his own party that the collapse of support for Likud in the polls would pass, but his own unpopularity is deep. Even Ehud Olment, the right-wing mayor of Jerusalem, refused - unlike Mr Netanyahu - to attend the ootorious rally in Jerusalem at

Himmler were displayed. None of this will be forgotten oext October, when Israel for the first time elects a prime minister separately from membership of the Knesset. Mr Peres has never been as popular as was Rabin, but he can almost certainly heat Mr Netanyahu.

In a straight fight, a poll by the daily Ma ariv shows Mr Peres would get 55 per cent of the vote and Mr Netanyahu 31 per cent. Another poll gives Mr Peres 46 per cent and Mr Netanyahu 28 per cent.

Some members of Likud criticise Mr Netanyahu, whose character resembles that of Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, for his alliance with the far right. But there is little they can do about it. In the unlikely event of a leadership contest, his strongest potential rival. Dan Meridor, would now be considered too liberal for many Likud supporters.

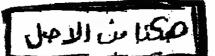
There is no doubt, however, that Mr Netanyahu is worried. A sign is his reported attempt to bring back into the party David Levy, the former foreign minister, whom he was glad to be rid of in June. He is now offering Mr Levy the number



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### the saturday story

# PLUG THEM IN, WATCH THEM GO

is computer technology the key to learning or does it make automatons of children? Paul Vallely reports from a high tech classroom

Technology embraced: Thurston Upper School in Suffolk, where publis spend up to 13 hours a week at a computer terminal

Richard Fawcett sat in the corner of the pub with a pen in his hand and a furrowed brow. He was trying to work out the square root of 24.8 using the method he bad been taught 30 years before at school. He bad no trouble remembering that his log tables had a blue canvas cover, nor that his slide-rule box was also blue, but the square root tech-nique eluded him until his third

"f know how to do it but it's old knowledge," said the head-teacher of Thurston Upper School, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, which has, for the past three years, been reaping the benefit of a £250,000 Technology Schools' Initiative grant to upgrade its computers and

other high-tech equipment. This week, the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority announced that calculators would be banned from maths tests for f1-year-olds, and possibly for 14-year-olds, too. This news may have prompted Mr Fawcett into a bout of logarithmic postalgia hut it also prompts some more philosophical questions about how technology shapes education - and not just how things are taught hut, more profoundly, whether it alters our notion of what knowledge is.

Mr Fawcett supped at a pint of Adnams and considered the Romans. It. was no wonder that they were not exactly whizzo at maths when you consider the problem of divid-ing MCLVIII by XXIX. All their achievements in other fields did not take them much

past the rote rhymes of illiterate metbods of counting; methods that survived even into the last century among innumerate Yorkshire shepberds, who continued to count in their flock yan, tan, tether, mether, pip; aysar, saysar, akker, conter, dick" - and, if they were interrupted, bad to begin the rhyme again at the

When the Arabs hit on their system - with its brilliant concept of zero things changed dramatically

It was only when the Arabs bit upon their more flexible system - with its brilliant con-cept of the number zero - that things began to change dramatically and vast new horizons opened. A new technique knowledge.

The history of learning has been the story of such leaps. The microscope made us consider diseases not in terms of symptoms but in terms of what might be their causes. The telescope made possible another such giant step in

astronomy. New technologies bave affected the sociology of learn- a business studies vocational

ing, too. When books were copied by hand, effort could be expended only on the greatest works, such as the Scriptures. But with the invention of the printing press, books became a commonplace. This not only altered our system of governance, aiding the growth of democracy and the decline of feudalism (the authorities recognised this instinctively, which is why they tried to ban "seditious tracts"); it also meant that "light entertain-ment" such as Sbakespeare got

Such were the developments of several millennia. ft is easy to forget how far we have come in a generation, not only with calculators and computers but with TV and video, faxes and photocopying, and even the invention of the humble bottle of Tippex correcting fluid. All, in Mr Fawcett's view, have had a significant impact on the values of modern education, for

better and for worse. For the worse? Some of that is evident enough. Yesterday, as we toured the school's large low-rise building which spreads itself generously over the flat Suffolk farmland, we came across a husiness studies student caught printing out his work without having checked it through, on the assumption that the computer spellchecker would have caught all the errors (it badn't). Then, just off one of the workshop-like classrooms, with their banks of computers set in rows around the wall. there was the sixth-former on course who admitted, to the horror of his classmates, it must he said, that if he went into a shop to buy six Mars bars at 27p each be wouldn't have any idea how much they cost unless be had a calculator;

shopkeeper would get it right. Such inability is not uncommon nationally, Mike Aston, director of the Advisory Unit on Computers in Education, ruefully recalls the GCSE question which asked candidates to cost the painting of a room given the dimensions. One answered £3.5m. "He could use the calculator all right. But be didn't understand the difference between the surface area and the volume so he had filled the room with paint."

without one, he assumed the

But there are also the countless examples of technology which is assisting for the better. At Thurston, where pupils spend anything between one and 13 hours a week at a computer terminal, a satellite link to French TV gives language students access to contemporary idioms in native speech. Calculators enable students in ehemistry and other applied drudgery and wrestle with the more interesting problems at a higher plane. Word processor spreadsheets permit students to run their own businesses. factoring in decisions on prices and other variables and studying the outcome. Thurston has been conducting a joint business venture with students at an entrepreneurial college in Finland - the school fax has

allowed some 200 exchanges of documents to be made in the academic year instead of the 20 or so that might have been possible by post

The key question is how to strike a balance between the pros and cons. Some trade-offs we have to accept: it was ever thus. Many of the bards of the ancient Celtic and Greek traditions refused to learn to read and write for fear it would destroy their poetry. Writing is a memory substitute - many illiterate people bave amazing memories - and the penalty for the writing which has increased the collective memory of society is the diminution of the memory of individuals.

But not everyone finds the present trade-offs acceptable. Some technology mixes children up further," says the Tory MP and former headmaster, Sir Rhodes Boyson, "Coun-tries in the Far East have the hest halance. There, children are not allowed to use a calculator before secondary school. Germany is the same. In the beginning, they have to learn their tables; calculators can become an aid to speed once them to produce their best they are competent. The same

Chris Butler, head of information technology at Thurston, agrees with the philosophy hut not the timetable: "Children have to have some basics laid before they can use technological aids, but at what age?" His colleague Stewart Chenery. who oversees the school's vocational programme, also sees a definitional issue - the elder generation notice what the

but the things they can't do, which the young can, the older people don't even know about. And there are problems with memory: the things older people are horrified that Il-yearolds can't do, they probably couldn't do themselves until they were 13; they've just for-

gotton. They think they knew Shakespeare when they were 14 but they are in fact remembering what they did at A level." And then there is the hidden moral dimension. Disciplines of mind have all kinds of moral correlatives: sloppy work equals sloppy thought, and so forth. O tempora, o mores. But imperatives change. For a monk working on an illuminated scroll, accuracy and intuitively good spelling were a first-order requirement; one slip at the end could mean that days of work went in the hin. But the premium shifted with the invention of printing, and

not do much for kids' spelling but it does make it easier for work," said Chris Butler. "They This, then, is the problem. The word processor might like Tippex - encourage pupils to revise more. But it can also encourage laziness and cutand-paste plagiarism. The photocopier can make information more accessible; but it also

properly. The video can allow chemistry students to see experiments that are too costly or dangerous to do in the school lab. But it can also turn a student's interaction with a work of literature into an entirely passive exercise which doesn't much enhance the

reading of the text. "We're the last of the computer illiterates," said one

'I was horrified when Tony Blair said that he wanted to link all schools up to the Internet'

has moved again with the tran-Thurston sixth-former, Matsient text on a computer thew Kirk, a humanities student. "The kids who are two years behind us are different screen. "New technology might creatures." What follows this transitional generation may be changes it is difficult for oldies to conceive. The current growth in information avail-Even the top academics cannot field. Those who moan about the growth of specialisation and the lack of breadth in tempts us into acquiring knowledge without then forcing the modern education forget necessary effort to digest it about the exponential growth

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

in information and knowledge. And this poses a problem in itself.

"f was horrified when Tony Blair said he wanted to link all schools up to the Internet." says Mike Aston of Computers in Education, "because schools and teachers aren't ready for it. The databases to which they will have access through the Internet are immense so they will bave to learn more about how to search, extract and eval-uate. This will bave a major impact on the role of the teacher. They will have to become enablers in a threecornered experience helping children to deal with information they themselves don't understand, Many teachers will be frightened to let go of their traditional roles.

Then there is the cost. Even a leading-edge school like Thurston has nightmares about the cost of upgrades. Without them, says Richard Fawcett, "we are condemning tomorrow's students to using yesterday's technology.

But in one area the benefits are clear. Even at break time, the computers all across the school are in use. In the to a CD-Rom, looking up ability is phenomenal. There information for his project on was a time when it was possi- trains. Until he arrived at the hle for a Leonardo to know start of term, be had never almost everything. Not now. used one. Nor, he says, did he ever use the library in his midmaster everything in their dle school. He was, he said. without looking up from the screen, not very keen on books, "ft's break time," said the master in charge. "Ill just finish this," the boy said.

# Jo Brand's week

I knew I would eventually have to become a living journalistic clicke in this column, so I am very relieved to find myself sitting hunched over the word processor at two o'clock in the morning with a deadline looming. So this is what it feels like. I'd always believed that at this point f was supposed to be fired with a feverish inspiration that would catapult the into producing fast-flowing and

witty opinion. Instead, I'm shattered and I'd quite like to go to bed.
We spent the final date of the tour in Cambridge tonight, where experience has taught me that the audience tends to be somewhat restrained and a bit upmarket. Last time f worked here f had a section in my act that involved waving a mystery object, consisting of a straw tube with a hook on it, at the audience and asking them what it was, (It was, in fact, a "wife leader" ... traditionally attached to the finger of the wife in the Caribbean so the husband can lead her around.) The suggestion I received from a well-to-do woman in the Cambridge audience was that it was "a cassava juice extractor". I'm sorry, f don't even know what a cassava is, let alone how you extract juice from it. I'll obviously have to start paying more attention in Safeway's exotic foods section. I personally preferred the suggestion from a member of the Liverpool audience as I waved my wife leader at them. "It's a fat bird with a stick," bellowed some wag.

On Sunday aftermoons f have a habit of gazing vacandy at the telly, while telling myself that next Sunday I'll go and do something constructive; so that was how the Smash Hits Poll Winners Party Came to wash past my eyes. I didn't realise that they had a section for comedy and was shocked to see my mush appear on the screen and discover I'd come fifth in the vote for favourite comedian.

Considering that most people who read Smash Hits tond to be prepubescent girls who weigh about the same as an atom, I was surprised I hadn't been voted Favourite Grown-Up for a Week at the Betty Ford Clinic.

I like the idea that a video of highlights from the Tory purely conference (to be used in a membership drive) has been tampered with by efficient. No, they haven't airbraished Michael Portillo's face into a lumous one or voiced over John Major's nasel tones with a touch of Schwarzenegge, they've shifted the andience response apparal. People are shown distribute at speeches they weren't even present at and looking sullen at speeches they apparently cheered at on the day. One look at the audiences who attend these conferences is pormally enough to put

most of us off, tending as they do towards a mixture of death-penalty supporters with blue hair and acned youth with a penchant for the garotte. I'd suggest not showing the audience at all then maybe a lew recruits would be tempted in to the party.



No airbrush job for Ribena boy

By the same token, it might be wise never to reveal to TV viewers all over the world the extent of silliness to be witnessed in the Russian parliament, given that certain characters, not content with the occasional punch aimed at other members, have turned the whole thing



Best Stand-up Comic

into a moronic cabaret in which dressing up in various stupid outfits

These Russian geezers make our Westminster lot look like grown-ups.

We all accept that Screaming Lord

Sutch is a bit of a laugh, but I don't

think anyone would be too happy if be

turned up in the Commons and tabled

a motion pertaining to the liberation

badger on your head on Wednesdays.

chemist's in Bexhill who came swiftly

to the rescue of myself and John the

tour manager when we staggered in

there last week with manumental

hangovers. Having purchased some

classes of water into which we tipped

the powder, watched it fizz and then

consumed it on the premises. That's

My mum expressed her relief this

British Comedy Awards. (All right,

week that I wasn't present at the

folks, ves. I won for stand-up.) f

think she thought Jonathan Ross

would try and make me crv. f was

quite glad, too, although in some

ways I wish I had been there last

have liked to have had a bash at

year when f got nominated for three awards and didn't win anything. f'd

the way chemists should be.

Wack Your Hangover Cure, this woman very kindly produced two

of jelly, or the freedom to wear a

Many thanks to the woman in a

seems to be the norm.

dissolving into piteous tears at the sadistic moment the cameras invade you, as you digest the knowledge that you're a loser. Everyone faces it so bravely, I'd like to see a few sulks and Betty Filmstar temper tantrums.
I'd also like to congratulate Jack Dee for winning Top Personality and thank him for bis message on my answerphone pointing out that I might have got something for stand-



When it comes to personality, he's tops

personality. Yes, he was joking. I had a great night in Swansea on Wednesday, doing a show with some comics on behalf of a long-standing community of people who risk losing their bomes because the land on which they live has been bought by a rich bloke who doesn't want them there. The campaign for the Holt's Field

community is going swimmingly.

Although we were in a night-club that looked like it would burst into Saturday Night Fever at any moment, it was a good laugh, and it's quite a while since I've done a show in front of a DI's box complete with DJ. The houneers looked like steroids on legs and f was eternally grateful l wasn't an unwelcome visitor. One of them asked me to send him a photo and it was no surprise be was called "Big" Dom. I'll make sure I write





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### The Queen of Hearts turns up trumps

The Queen would never have done what the Princess of Wales did this week. She must have been appalled at her daughter-in-law's indiscretion, her flagrant hreaching of royal protocol. There was Diana, on a platform with a Lahour politician, letting everyone know how badly she felt about homelessness. She spoke emotionally about "sixteen- and seventeen-year olds who resort to begging, or worse, prostitution, to get money in order to eat. Young people whose physical and mental health has been severely damaged by life on the streets."

This is not the discreet, diplomatic, Windsor way of doing things. The closest the Queen has ever got to telling us how she feels about anything was when she reached for a Latin textbook. "Annus horribilis" is hardly language to stir the hearts of the nation. Diana would not use it; she would probably think it was a form of colonic

irrigation gone wrong.

The Princess of Wales is different from her in-laws. She "really cares" and she is not going to stay quiet. Her latest intervention had Tory hackbenchers jumping up and down as though she had wrapped herself in the red flag, joined Tony Blair's froot-beoch team and was on the stump for Labour. She had "been duped by a socialist speech writer," fumed Harry Greenway, a Conservative MP.

It is easy to understand his fears. The princess shared a platform with Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman. She is clearly exploring new possibilities for her role in

British life. Diana is an exciting and unpredictable figure, unwilling to be fettered by Buckingham Palace precedent and practice. More nervous Tory MPs, nursing tiny majorities, can perhaps be forgiven for believing, in their wilder moments, that she could even become party political, an unguided missile fired into the general election campaign.

But it is ridiculous to think that the Queen

of Hearts is Labour's trump card. Her speech was free of party favouritism. This was Diana having her say on a social issue about which she feels passionately, at a conference organised by a charity, Centrepoint, of which she is

The problem that the Princess of Wales poses to the Establishment does not concern politics. She is well aware of the requirement that members of the Royal Family should stay above party politics. She knows that her position would become untenable if she broke with that tradition. Her challenge, rather, is about style. She is unwilling to go along with a tightlipped, reserved, buttooed-up, elitist image of mooarchy that is utterly removed from the way

people live their everyday lives.

In a outshell, the Princess of Wales is coming to represent an alternative vision of the modern monarchy. If the latter was re-created in her image, it would still be charismatic and awesome, but it would also be much more in touch with the coocerns and realities of most people's lives. She speaks to and oo behalf of modern



young women. Her trips to the gym, her talk about the difficulties of being the right type of parent, her confessions about bulimia and her speeches on a host of social problems from homelessness to Aids, strike a powerful chord with the rest of society.

The Queen and her children traditionally

steer clear of this difficult territory. The Prince of Wales has his own public causes. He has vented his spleen on the brutalism of some modern architecture, standards of spoken English, and on environmental issues. But he does not have his wife's common touch. He will always remain a rather isolated and remote figure, a

product of another, fast-disappearing age.

As for the Queen, she prides herself oo a detached monarchical style. She has an almost Paviovian aversion to appearing partisan. Not even Pierre Brassard, the disc jockey who masqueraded as the Canadian premier, could trick her into abandoning her studied diplomatic persona.

The neutral, neutered character offered by the monarchy is a long-standing element in the British constitution. It has served the present queen well, particularly during the Eighties when the prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, was a divisive force in British life. But her studied distance from day-to-day issues leaves the Royal Family peculiarly out of touch: the monarchy's habits, ways and image are increasingly obsolescent, belonging more to the Fifties than the Nineties.

French strikers

Sir: As someone who has just

hitherto been very generous

From Mr Walter Cairns

Princess Diana takes more risks. She speaks about emotions. She is exploring the limits. She is breaking fresh ground. That's dangerous: if she gets the national mood wrong, she risks alienating the public. But her style also offers an opportunity to reinvigorate an institution which has become dangerously out of touch with a people who, after all, pay the bills.

The events of the past couple of days resemhle similar attacks on the Church of England in the Eighties, when it became a wocal critic of poverty. The thundering Establishment said that the church had no place in politics and should stay quiet. But the bashops kept up their barbed comments, won friends beyond the ordinary faithful and, as a result, gave themselves a little more relevance. Likewise, the Princess of Wales will proba-

bly annoy many people with her outspokenness. Her motivation may be questioned: it seems to be a combination of revenge against her hus-band, an obsession with self-publicity and a genuine to desire to do good. But, whatever her aims, she could, in the process of tackling con-troversial issues, free the Royal Family from its emotional strait-jacket and rescue it from its growing isolation. That would be a service to

The Princess of Wales will almost certainly never be Oueen. But at the very minimum she could give Charles - and her son - a model for a more open style of monarchy, at once more risky and more relevant to modern times.

### ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

#### Let 100 currencies bloom

From Mr James Robertson Sir. One can sympathise with Andrew Marr's dream ("The secret that Blair and Major share". 5 December) of stirring hope of economic recovery to up apathy about Europe. But he is unlikely to realise it. And that is probably just as well.

Our politicians may agree with each other that the monetary debate hoils down to this: everyone must use a single European currency, instead of their own boundaries. national currencies; oo, everyone must go on using national currencies; oo, no, a decisioo must be postponed. But they are wrong. That is not the

What about allowing a common European currency to develop organically, without compulsion, alongside national currencies, as increasing numbers of businesses and others find it convenient to use it? There are strong political and economic arguments for that approach, as John Major recognised when he was Chancellor. It is an obvious fallback strategy for the European project, if and when Maastricht fails. And it has a further advantage,

not so widely recognised as yet. Acceptance of the principle of coexisting currencies at different levels could give oew many cities and other suboational areas. One of the problems for these "economic crisis regions" today is that they cannot earn enough national currency to support economic transactions within

If, as part of a new multilevel currency regime, local government authorities were allowed to issue local purchasing power in the form of local currencies for local use, that could be a great help.

It would be good if the Independent could encourage this kind of fresh thinking in the debate about Europe, rather than apathy. Today's heresy can turn out to be tomorrow's conventional wisdom. Yours faithfully, JAMES ROBERTSON Cholsey, Oxfordshire

### Quality television direct from the West End | Labour fails

From Mr Noble Wilson Sir: David Lister's case (Section Two; "As not seen on TV", 6 December) for the making of television recordings of some of the best theatre productions in the British theatre is well argued. It should oow be perfectly possible to negotiate rights for domestic and international sales, both with Equity and the technicians' unions. The multichannel future is nearly upon us and there will be a need for

good, quality programming.

More difficult to overcome is the belief that good televised drama can only come from the studio. There was a period in the Fifties when BBC Television transmitted live relays from shows running in the West End theatres, but because managements were nervous about the effect on their andiences, it was only allowed to take part of the productions.

To those of us involved in directing these outside broad-The writer is author of Future Wealth: A New Economics for the 21st century'. time also did oot help: cameras

ing was required, and good audio coverage of actors moving about the stage was very

hard to achieve. Today, all that has changed: cameras are smaller, lighter, and more sensitive, which means less additional lighting meeus to be installed. Radio decisions into policy is if the microphooes ensure perfect speech from any part of the stage. Digital video recording guaraotees the quality of reproduction.

It really ought to be possible to ensure that memorable productions can be enjoyed, long after they have closed, by audiences in Britain and abroad. Yours etc. NOBLE WILSON

Long Ditton, Surrey

From Mr David Aukin Sir: Channel 4 has over the last few years commissioned a number of stage plays for the screen casts, it sometimes seemed that only the shows that were not doing too well would agree to III, Ariel Dorfman's Death and a relay. The technology of the the Maiden, David Mamet's Oleanna, Jonathan Harvey's

were bulky, a lot of extra light Beautiful Thing (now in ing was required, and good post-production) and as David Lister mentions, Adrian Noble is currently shooting A Mid-

mmer Night's Dream. returned from France, I was They were commissioned interested to read Tony Barbecause I felt they would work ber's perceptive analysis of the current industrial unrest there well as films and on television. and its significance for the future of Economic and Mon-etary Union (EMU) ("The battle for Europe's future", 6 December). During my stay, I was par-ticularly struck by the hitterness experienced by the strikers to ITV and allow us instead to spend the money on more proagainst a government that is grammes, especially drama, prepared to sacrifice the social which if it's to be done well can consensus, based on what has

be expensive. The question is whether it welfare provision, on the altar of EMU-the benefits of which would enrich our lives more for they were very unsure about. Granada to use our money to I did, however, feel ex-tremely embarrassed when I fund their acquisition of Forte or for Deborah Warner's production of Richard II to be was asked whether they could count on the support of the British Labour and Trade brought to our screens. It's a tough one. Yours faithfully, DAVID AUKIN Head of Drama Channel Four Television

gested that there are probably about 100 million of these more

than 10km across. Whatever

the total, the very presence of

the Kniper belt is a strong indication that there is no large

Department of Earth Sciences

From The Rev Martyn Hughes

veyed in detail, it has been sug-

is currently waging a fight that is much more geoeral in its scope than the safeguarding of its members, social security rights - to wit, the whole future of the welfare state in Europe

 I find this Trappist monk approach quite astounding.
 Cynics might conclode that the Labour Party is so frightened of losing its respectability at home that it will oot even support the justified demands of its comrades elsewhere in Europe. Yours sincerely, WALTER CAIRNS

Manchester 6 December

#### Can't afford a church wedding

From Mrs M Harris Sir: I have been reading reports from the General Synod of the

Church or England regarding marriage and deptoring the drop in the number of church marriages, but nowhere have I seen any reference to the high cost of getting married in a state church today.

For young unemployed cou-ples, living on state benefit and trying to get a home together, this might be partly the answer. Without help from parents who might also be on a low income, it might seem impossible.

Maybe the Church should take a tip from the main street banks, which offer university students interest-free loans in the hope that when circumstances improve they will retain the students' custom. Has the Church not heard of the widow's mite? Yours faithfully,

Coleford, Głoucestershire 6 December

#### Snowbound with the Swiss

From Mr Neville Conder Sir: If we have to sell British Rail, and bearing in mind the disruption at the first fail of snow, let's sell to the Swiss. Yours faithfully, NEVILLE CONDER London, SW7 7 December

# AARONOVITCH A matter

of fax What I want to know is this

who framed Greg
Knight? Greg who? Privy
Counsellor, Deputy Chief
Whip, popular Tory MP for
Derby North, the Right Hon-

ourable Greg Knight, that's Greg who, Since last weekend, Mr Knight has been hounded by the gutter press in the shape of the Independent on Sunday and the Derby Evening And why? It's a strange tale. On Budget day, Ken Clarke announced that cars more than 25 years old would no longer be

British Labour and Trade Unioo movement. I had to reply very evasively in view of the deafening silence that has emanated from John Smith
House on this issue.

In view of the fact that the
French Thade Union movement

Commons Classic Car Club,
which shot off faxes to car mags
Popular Classics and Classic
Car Weekly, praising the Chancellor for his wisdom and Mr Knight (an enthusiast himself) for exercising his influence to bring about this excellent

> So far, so good. The trouble started when some bright spark
> of a journalist ooticed that the two faxes, though identically worded, carried the names of two completely different Hoo-ourable Secretaries - a Miss C Seymour and a Mrs T Sothcott. Said spark started to check out the Commons Classic Car

Club. Nobody other than Mr Knight could be found who had heard of it. Were the HonSecs for real? Yes, Mr Knight could vouch for them (both turned out to be his personal assistants). But no, he was not sure who else was in .

the cloh - he was a busy man, attended events when he could, couldn't explain the change of HonSecs, but it is the season for AGMs. AGMs.

Sure, yon could jump to the conclusion that Mr Knight is a rather preposterous self-publicist with a slim majority, who arranged to have self-congratulatory press releases from a

fictitious organisatioo circulated to the classic car world. But isn't that all a bit too neat? I have a different theory. Mr Knight has made enemies in his time. Take the occasion when he parked no fewer than four of his beautiful vintage

enthusiast well. MPs, unfortunately, are not so magnani-mous. This incident alone would provide sufficient motive for what I believe then followed.

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See See

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Several years ago, my theory goes, some MP set up the Classic Car Club and invited a number of colleagues to join. One was Greg Knight. As time passed, the membership died off, or failed to be re-elected, leaving only a few MPs and others, many of whom bad forgotten the club eveo existed.

But there were two women prepared to keep the standard flying. Enthused by their mutual employer, Miss Seymour and Mrs Sothcott first joined and later ran the club, whose Annual General Meeting fell dne at the end of November. This year, one of the Ms S's, as Honourable Secretary, booked the Grand Committee Rooms and posted ootices. Come the day and the hour and - horrorl - the Commons was voting and the two women found themselves alone in the vast room.

Undeterred, they pressed ahead with the only two items on the agenda - the expression of thanks to Mr Knight for his efforts on road tax (passed, oem con) and the election of officers, in which - oaturally -Ms S succeeded Ms S for the period 1996.

But who was going to convey the club's resolution to the public? After discussion, the two women decided to divide the task between them - the ootgoing and the incoming HonSecs would appear oo alternate press releases. End of

What was dishonourable was the decisioo of Mr Knight's jealous colleagues to refuse to come forward and validate his account of the club, thus leaving him looking ridiculous. But they know who they are. And if I have anything to do with it, readers of the *independent* will cars in the House of Commons be told who they are. They have car park. Now you or I, finding been warned!

#### QUOTE UNQUOTE

Both BR and Railtrack said today they were ready for anything the weather could throw at them - Report in Tuesday's Evening Standard, before snow crippled the rail network in the South-east. In Britain, if you are blonde and have blue eyes, then you are

called a bimbo, which is rather unfortunate for 90 per cent of Scandinavians - Ulrika Jonsson, television personality, who is

In their teenage years, when your average lad is out getting his first woman, a lot of gay young people end up going to church instead because they are open to other sources of beauty - the Rev Michael Vasey, who says Jesus would not have been hostile. towards gays

Some people who are going to find themselves outside Parliament in two years' time are in for a fright, because they have no qualification other than politics and there is nothing so dead as an ex-MP - Lord Harris of Greenwich, Liberal Democrat peer

A four-letter word can oever make an unfunny line funny, and every night these comedians prove my point. Did you ever hear Tommy Cooper swear? Or Ken Dodd? Or Morecambe and Wise?

- Eddie Braben, Morecambe and Wise scriptwriter

#### In favour of a leghold trap ban

From Mr Ken Collins, MEP Sir: I refer to the full-page advertisement in today's Independent placed by a coalition of animal welfare groups (7 December). It states that the European Commission has decided to propose a postponement of the implementa-tion of the leghold trap ban.

The European Parliament will of course be consulted on these proposals, possibly as carly as this Monday. The Environment Committee, which will be the lead committee, has already made it clear in previous discussions that it supports ommission's failure to ecact the necessary implementing regulations.

This is also the view of the arliament's largest political oup.

Although we have not yet an opportunity to a mission

Commission proposals, it is unlikely that our view will change. Yours sincerely,

KEN COLLINS MEP for Strathclyde East (Lab)

7 December The writer is chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer

#### Sheep's brains on the menu

From Mr Steve Robson Sir: Today, in your letters col-umn, Dr H. C. Grant says that because sheep brains were removed from the carcasses they did not eoter the human food chain and so posed no risk. They were removed and sold as a common food to be prepared in a variety of ways. Any French or English cookbook will give

So where does that leave us? Yours faithfully. STEVE ROBSON London, SE1



From Mr Gregory Paul Morris Sir. In response to R. V. Wells (letter, 6 December), the Roman church actively spon-sored Latin translations of the "original" Hebrew scriptures io the 16th century, as the translation of Santes Pagninus and the Alcala and Complutensian Polyglot Bibles testify. We owe a great debt to Sebastian Muenster, another early Roman Catholic Hebraist, whose Latin translation was one of the favoured cribs of those who produced the Autho-

rised Version. The Church was increasingly

in its day. Yours faithfully,

In the vernacular suspicious of Judaising influ-

ences, however, and became rabidly hostile to the concept of a Bible that mediated the sacred writings to the ploughboy and the artisan without the help of an unlearned and superstitious clergy. Nowhere was the Roman church more zealous in trying to quash the vernacular Bible than in England: Sir Thomas More claimed that Tyndale's New Testament had thousands of errors, whereas modern scholars can appreciate how advanced it was GREGORY P. MORRIS St Mary's College St Andrews, Fife

### is no Planet X!

By Jupiter, there

From Dr David A. Rothery Sir: What a pity Tom Wilkie ended his otherwise excellent article on spacecraft that have gone to Jupiter and beyond (8 December) with a paragraph about a "tenth planet beyond the orbit of Pluto" that might have been written years ago.

Few planetary scientists now believe that "Planet X" can exist. The strongest evidence against it comes from observations in recent years of dozens of small icy objects, 200km and smaller in size, that are scattered throughout the region of Plnto's orbit and beyond. This is none other than the Kuiper belt, predicted by the Dutch-American astronomer Gerard Kuiper in 1951 as representing debris from the hirth of the solar system, too widely dispersed to have aggregated into

planet-size objects.

Extrapolating from the very small areas of sky so far sur-

Sir: These lines from Ptolemy (2nd century AD) came to light as I heard of the successful Inpiter drop: Mortal though I be, year I gaze up to the night's starry domain of heaven, Then no longer on earth I stand; I touch the Creator,

London, SW1

planet out there.

Yours sincerely,

The Open University

D. A ROTHERY

Milton Keynes

8 December

6 December

and my lively spirit drinketh immortality. Yours faithfully, MARTYN HUGHES Worthing 8 December

#### The benefits of a good consultant

From Mr Martin Leith. Sir: In Chris Blackhurst's piece ("Ministers fail to justify consultants' fees of £95m", 4 December) health minister Tom Sackville is reported as saying that consultants were used to assist in improving efficiency, but that "it is not possible to assess the savings which are a direct consequence of

their activity". Mr Blackhurst infers that the Government has no idea how much benefit consultants provide. But he ignores the fact that organisations such as the NHS hire consultants to bring benefits other than costs savings. These include helping them think in new, more effective ways, contributing specialand supplying temporary man-power to help put plans into action. Furthermore, good consultants work hard to keep up to date with current manage-ment thinking, and although a few Luddite Tory MPs may dis-approve, much of this emznates from business schools, some of the American ones. Consuming is a highly com-

petitive marketplace and consultants have to be effective to survive. Consultants are challenging to work with. They ask uncomfortable questions. They bring skeletons from closets. They have high standards of quality. They work long hours. The good ones are in demand, and therefore expensive. Yours sincerely, MARTIN LETTH

Director The Centre for Large Group Interventions ist expertise, acting as enablers, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

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#### PROFILE: Martin Burtt

# No sign of panic down on the farm

How has the cattle industry been coping this week? Peter Popham looks through one farmer's eyes

After a week like the one just gone, even a character as oblegmatic as Martin Burtt, North Yorkshire livestock farmer, is getting a little rattled. Each day brings news of more schools giving up beef and experts declaring their amaetics: yesterday it was announced that beef prices in some markets had plummeted by about £80 an animal. down more than 11 per cent on last week, Mr Burtt and his cattle farming colleagues around the country have had to contemplate the prospect of their industry collapsing. It's just unthinkable, the nightmare scenario," he says. "There would be ruination in the countryside."

Mr Burtt is at once both an ordinary and an emiment figure in live-stock farming. His 250-acre farm amid the wild beauty of Glaisdale in the North Yorkshire Moors is "small to medium", as he puts it, on a par with hundreds of others around the country, But his concern for the welfare of the industry has propelled him to the forefront of its deliberative bodies: he is chairman of the National Farmers Union's livestock committee and the union's beef farming representative on the board of Farm Assured British Beef and

Lamb, an urganisation dedicated to raising the standards of meat sold

in shops. Why bother with such

tasks? "I'd like them to be able to

put on my tombstone that the indus-

try was safe in my hands," he says.

the Armageddon of industry melt-down is still a subject reserved fur

nightmares, not for sober daytime

contemplation. "There is concern.

but not ponic. The last thing we want

is panic." But five years ago, during

the last BSE scare, demand for beef

As far as Mr Burtt is concerned.

fell 20 per cent and consumption levels have only recently recovered. Resurgence of BSE-related fears among the public gives him "frus-tration and annoyance," he says, "the same as many other farmers. The media's been harping on about BSE with a very slanted point of view. The other side isn't getting

The "other side" is what farmers have been reiterating since the han in November 1989 on use of "specified offal" - bits of cattle including brain and spinal cord - in products for human consumption, "Since the offal ban," Burtt says, "if procedures are carried out correctly in the slaughterhouse, there is no risk. I have no doubt whatsoever that beef is perfectly safe and nutritious."

Yet widespread public doubts remain. Meanwhile, research into the problem limps from year to year, and in his recent budget, Ken Clarke announced that the Neu-ropathogenesis Unit in Edinburgh, one of the key research bodies, is to have its funding cut. "We've got to pump money into these people who know, to get them to come up with results as fast as possible," Burtt says, with some frustration, "It

'The media has been harping on about BSE with a very

would be irresponsible to starve them of funds. If the government

want to put their money where

their mouth is, they should fund them to the full. We've got to get an

answer to this, and the only way is

Martin Burtt was brought up in the Yorkshire Dales, near where he

farms today. He went to Stoneyhurst

public school, but decided early

that he wanted to farm. He left

school after O-levels and spent

three years' labouring on nearby

to keep the research going.

slanted point of view. The other side isn't getting put'



farms before going to agricultural college. "I suppose farming's in the blood," he says. "It missed a couple of generations, now it's coming out in me." In 1967, he bought for £16,500 the farm where he and his family - a daughter and triplet boys

Today, that farm is worth more than £250,000. Much else has

changed, 100. Before the BSE prob-

lem crashed down on them, the

higgest challenge Britain's cuttle

farmers faced was EU hureaucracy

and quotas. "In 1984. milk quotas

were introduced. Since then, we've

had guutas on beef and sheep, too;

everything now has a lid on it. As a result, everything we produce must be of the highest quality," says Burtt. That tendency has been rein-

forced by a sea change in the mar-

ket. When Mr Burtt started out, his

market consisted of hundreds of

lion per year, is dominated by the big supermarket chains. Nation-wide, the amount of land devoted to beef farming may have shrunk by 20 per cent since the war, but from that reduced land and a much smaller workforce, 25 per cent more beef cows are produced. The animals are bigger and bet-

family butcher shops; now the live-

stock industry, worth about £10 bil-

ter quality, too," says Burtt. Beef sales last year generated £1.86 bil-lion and exports £500 million. With his 60 head of beef and 90

of dairy cartle, Burtt represents a tiny but typical fraction of this industry. Last year, there were 73.600 beef cow and 46.200 dairy cow holdings in the country, with nearly 12 million cattle and calves among them. The industry employs about 100,000 people - a vast reduction over the past 50 years; Mr Burtt and his two assistants (one part time) account for three of them.

When BSE first appeared, in 1986, it was "just something we heard about in the media, like anyone else." he says. "I just hoped it wouldn't affect my herd, or anyone

The agent believed to have caused it, the sheep brain disease scrapie.

got into the feed that farmers fed to dairy cattle. The fact that this feed contained fragments of both sheep and cow flesh didn't bother Mr Burtr: "At the time, it was seen as an extremely cheap and nutritious form of feed. Nobody thought there was anything wrong with it.

The government predicted the number of cattle with BSE would fail after the government banned the feed, and eventually it did. It's been a slow decline though - many farmers had hundreds of tons of feed in storage when the ban was introduced, and they weren't going to throw it all away.

As numbers began falling last year, Mr Burtt began to breathe easier. He has had BSE on his farm, like most dairy farmers and 15 per cent of beef farmers - "three or four cases in the past three or four

This weekend, the Burtts will sit down to their customary beef joint without a qualm; next week, they will eat beefburgers as usual. Mr Burtt knows what he's doing, "You get used to your cows when you spend all day with them, you know them as individuals, almost by name." He enjoys a degree of cer-tainty the rest of us can only crave.

# Nobel poet shaped by contradictions

Fintan O'Toole offers an eve-ofceremony tribute to Seamus Heaney

Meeting Bill Clinton in Dublin last week, and lis-tening to the US President quote him in virtually every speech he gave. Seamus Heaney must have had mixed feelings. He himself has quoted with approval a message the American poet Robert Lowell sent to Lyndon Johnson, turning down a request to read at the White House: "every serious artist knows that he cannot enjoy public celebration without making subtle public commitments."

In an artistic life marked by an increasing volume of pub-lic celebration, culminating with his acceptance of the Nobel Prize for Literature tomorrow, Seamus Heaney has also tried to avoid subtle political commitments.

He is not an unpolitical writer. On the contrary, when Heaney and others began to write poetry in Belfast in the early Sixties, it was a deeply political act. They believed, as Heaney later recalled, "that the tolerances and subtleties of their art were precisely what they had to set against the repetitive intolerance of public life."

His poetry is not a shunning of politics, but a corrective to it. By seeking out the subtlety that is always hidden in words, he has delivered a rebuke to the dangerous cliches of so much public language. One of the reasons he is so often quoted by politicians on big, symbolic occasions is that the generosity of his language supplies something that has been patently absent in most political speech.

It is easy, of course, for writers who don't really feel the tug of a commitment to their own tribe to steer clear of narrow political identifications. But in Heaney's case, everything about him is saturated in a visceral sense of belonging. His imagination is deeply territorial, utterly rooted in a sense of place. His work has returned again and again to his child-hood in County Derry, a place, like all places in Northern Ireland, imbued with politics.

As a young Catholic, Seamus Heaney suffered the usual "country of community", as he put it, "was also a place of division", wherein the very names of fields and townlands, some Scots, some Irish, gave the game away: "the lines of sec-tarian antagonism followed the boundaries of the land".

A poet in thrall to that landscape could have slipped easily and naturally into the role of cultural spokesman for an embattled tribe. The pressure to do just that weighs heavily on his work. The tension between the warm, rich lyric impulse of his gift and the dark, dangerous terrain over which it has often had to move is what has made

his poetry so powerful. His basic politics are not very different from those of most Irish nationalists in North-ern Ireland. He famously objected to being included in the Penguin Book of British Verse, sending a poetic open letter to the editors:

My passport's green. No glass of ours was ever

To toast the Queen But he writes, of course, in English. Almost as much as he is a poet of Irish experience. Heaney is a poet of English traditions, a successor to Milton.



Heaney: at heart an

Wordsworth and Hopkins. And every time he writes, he acknowledges, in the very act, what he calls the "double reality" of Ireland and Britain.

That he has made something wonderful from this contradiction holds out the hope that living in a double reality, as Northem Ireland must learn to do, can be rich and rewarding instead of nightmarish and terrifying.

Some time ago, Heaney expressed the desire to "make things up more, to transform things more ... to change what's there. I would like to be able to put things through myself and make them different. I would harassment from the exclu-sively Protestant special con-stabulary. Even though his fam-ily was not politicised, his politics is to get to a point where politicians don't have to rely on quotes from Scamus Heaney when they want to articulate that aspiration.

The writer is a columnist with the

# It's official: stress can damage your health

First it was said to cause heart attacks. Now it's cancer. Liz Hunt looks at the making of a modern disease

The link between breast cancer and stress reported this week by a team of British doctors and psychologists has significance beyond its clinical conclusion. Previous studies have hinted that major traumas such as bereavement. redundancy or divorce, are associated with the disease but the latest evidence, published in the British Medical Journal today, is the most com-

This study obliges us to place stress at the core of mainstream medicine, as a cause of ill-health. And it begs the question that if stress really does cause disease, what can doctors do about it? Doctors do not like stress because it is diffi-

cult to treat. They prefer magic-bullet medicine, where a drug or operation will cure the disease or alleviate the symptoms. This has been a barrier for more than 50 years to their acceptance of stress as a potential trigger for a range of illnesses. Their patients, however, have recognised stress and its associated risks more readily.

Everyone has felt "stressed out" at sometime or other, it was the classic Eighties' disease. And when people are under stress they know, almost intuitively, that they are more vulnerable to coughs, colds, and other infections.

This may sound like common sense, but it is only with scientific evaluation that stress will be taken seriously. Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, says: "Studies like the BMI study can only help. What we have needed is a scientific approach to evaluating stress and, notil recently, very few doctors and psychol-

ogists have worked together on this." An Austrian physiologist, Hans Selve, working in Montreal in the Thirties, is widely regarded as the father of modern stress research. He noted that adverse stress - physical or emotional stimuli including internal conflicts, significant life events or physical violence - were risk factors for a range of illnesses in certain patients. Dr Selve hypothesised in medical journals and lectures that these forms of stress disturbed the production of certain vital hormones in the body.

resulting in pathological changes to some tissues. His work attracted some attention from fellow doctors but it was not until the changes in working practice brought about by the Second World War that stress became more widely recognised

The real springboard for the emergence of as a subject worthy of research. Long hours and stress as a modern disease was the work of two



Stress at work has contributed to a rise in heart disease among men

aircraft industry took their toll on people's health. reflected in absenteeism and behavioural changes such as increased drinking and smoking.

In the Fifties and Sixties, the rise in heart disease among men was identified and since they then made up the bulk of the workforce, it was suggested that stress - possibly related to new technologies in the office and modernisation of manufacturing industries - might be a contributory factor. "It was a gradual dawning that

Dr Meyer Friedman and Dr Ray Rosenman showed a direct relationship between what they termed "type A" behaviour (ambition, aggressiveness, competitiveness, hostility, restlessness etc) and heart disease. Their eight-year study of more than 3,000 men in California concluded that those who showed type A behaviour ran twice the normal risk of developing coronary heart disease. This was comparable to the risks associated with smoking and drinking.

Their study remains controversial, since sev-

eral attempts to confirm the findings have fulled to do so. However, it remains a landmark in stress research, and funding for further work by extra night shifts in munitions factories and the cardiologists in the late Sixties in San Francisco. the growing number of interested psychologists

○ 55 • • •

and scientists was forthcoming as a result, They set out to discover if stress played a role in the development of other diseases. They had their answer when, in the Seventies, scientists at Ohio State University showed that the immune system of unimals subjected to stress was compromised, and that production of white blood cells, the T-cells, which fight disease, fell.

Since then a variety of studies - some good, some dubious - have linked stress to a series of major and minor illness: cancer, mouth ulcers, infertility, and post-viral fatigue syndrome. Dr Selye's hypothesis is now the accepted view: that when coping with stress the body responds by increased production of certain hormones such as adrenaline and cortisol, which affect heart rate, blood pressure and metabulism. However, at a certain level and under continued exposure to stress, these physiological changes affect a person's ability to cope, and possibly cause damage to vital organs. In some susceptible individuals,

this may trigger disease.

Dr Tony David, a medical psychologist at the Institute of Psychiatry in London and one of the researchers involved in the new BMJ study, has postulated that treatments which directly affect the immune system, protecting it from the effects of stress, are a therapeutic option in stress-related illness. But this is many years away; hormonal treatments are another possibility, but again too little is known about their role in disease development.

Preventive action against the bad effects of stress is, then, largely up to the individual, by learning how to reduce or manage their stress levels. GPs can help by referring patients to counsellors or therapists, but those who do are the exception rather than the rule.

Alternatively, Professor Cooper sees a growing role for employers in reducing stress. Changes in the workplace throughout the Eighties and Nineties have disrupted the lives of millions. The job for life has disappeared, replaced by insecurity and short-term contracts. In the short-term at least, occupational stress will be a growing problem, reflected in poor health and absenteeism. By reducing stress levels at work or helping people cope through access to counselling, employers will be getting more out of their employees while enabling them to manage stressful events outside work more effectively. The way forward may be through the workplace rather than the surgery.

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مكذا من الأصل

### Tom Burns

Tom Burns, the Roman Catholic publisher and editor of the Catholic weekly the Tablet from 1967 to 1982, was an influential figure on the Catholic scene in Britain. The Catholic faith was the foundation of his life, the backdrop for everything he did. His confidence in the Church supported him when, in 1968, he had to cope with the crisis caused by the publication of Humanae Vitae, Pope Paul VI's encyclical reaffirming the traditional ban on contracep-tion. No editor of the Tablet, Burns thought, had ever been confronted with an issue of

conscience and policy so grave. Burns was born in Chile, in 1906, the seventh of nine children. His father was a Scottish husinessman, his mother a Chilean of mixed English and Basque descent. The family settled in London. Burns was educated by the Jesuits, first at Wimhledon College, and then at Stonyhurst as one of the spe-

Back in London, Burns was invited by Frank Sheed to join him in launching the new pub-lishing house of Sheed & Ward. Tirelessly making social contacts from morning till evening with huge conviviality - Hilaire Bel-loc and G.K. Chesterton were among his acquaintances -Burns tackled the job with his usual energy. By 1931, in only five years, the firm had published 191 different titles.

In 1936 Burns left Sheed & Ward for Longman Green, across the road in Paternoster Row. He set himself in particular to revive the Catholic list. which had become virtually defunct. One of his successes was to persuade the board at Longmans to back a visit to Mexico by Graham Greene. Out of his venture came Greene's first great novel - The Power and the Glory (1940). Greene never

Paris, where he threw himself and publishing in the Tablet into the world of the Catholic stalments of his novel Monsignor Outrote as it was being written. There was a friendship also, which died out of disrepair, with

Evelyn Waugh.
At the outbreak of the Second World War, knowing Spain and the Spanish language, Burns found himself press attaché at the Madrid embassy under Sir Samuel Hoare. His brief was to do everything possible to encourage Spain's neu-trality and he found his task congenial. It was his conviction that the Spanish Civil War had been a peculiarly Spanish phenomenon; for him, that belief was confirmed when Franco kept Hitler at arm's length.

It was in 1944 that Burns married his beloved wife, Mabél, daughter of the Spanish physician, historian and liberal Gregorio Maranon. For all who knew them in their later years, Tom and Mabel were a unit it was impossible to think of one cial charges of the brilliant and forgot, and supported Tom without the other. Burns was a formidable Martin D'Arcy. He Burns in his turn by becoming went on not to university but to one of the Tabler's trustees, and he and Mabél with their



four children became the centre of a devoted extended family which opened its arms to all

manner of visitors and guests. After the war he became managing director of Burns & Oates, the leading Catholic publishing house Originally founded by his great-uncle James Burns. Tom Burns and his colleague Douglas Woodruff, the then editor of the Tables, built up a small empire, consisting of the publishing firm (a thousand titles were added to the list) and bookshops; R. and T. Washbourne, specialists in devotional articles such as rosaries and statues of Our Lady and the saints; the biggest-selling religious weekly, the Universe; and the Tablet.

Woodruff had great influence

on Burns's career, but the two

men were very different Before taking over the editorial chair of the Tables in 1967, Burns had composed a memorandum of his intentions. Though couched in general terms, it caused Woodruff such alarm that there was an attempt, which came to nothing, to revoke Burns's appointment. It was clear that the Tables would change. Woodruff never came to terms with the Second Vatican Council, the reforming council of the Church which met in Rome from 1962 to 1965, whereas for Burns it seemed the realisation of his

The crisis over contraception broke in 1968. Burns was clear in his opposition to the papal encyclical and despite the pres-

dreams.

sures brought to bear on him, he held courageously in conscience to his opinion. He called his leading article "Crisis in the Church" and correctly forecast that it would quickly become a crisis of anthority. Very large numbers of Catholics shared his standpoint and among them. were those who found the Tables

a lifeline. He gave them hope.

The paper lost some readers and gained others. In an open letter "on loyalty" to a colonel who had cancelled his subscription, Burns wrote: "We are a very old family: we have lived together for nearly 2,000 years. But we may be still in our infancy. I believe, as Coventry Pat-more said, in the Catholicism of 2,000 years hence." In that spirit, year by year, never afraid to do battle, he pushed forward his vision of a renewal of the Church from the standpoint of the "extreme centre".

His political line, however, was conservative. All his life he would have no truck with socialism and was robustly anti-Communist, abhorring the

spiritual lie at the centre of Marxism-Leninism.

In 1968 he paid a visit to Nigeria and against the stream of Catholic opinion gave wholehearted support to General Gowon in his struggle with General Ojukwu, the separatist leader of the mainly Catholic Ibos. Deeply antagonistic to Ojukwu's cause, Burns refused to publish the letters of protest

against his editorial policy.

He greatly expanded the Tabler's international coverage of the Church, One of his concerns was to build bridges to the Irish Catholic community, he launched an Irish supplement which continues to appear every year in the issue nearest to St

Patrick's Day.
Financially, the paper was in difficulty. Part by part, the Burns and Oates Holdings empire dissolved, and eventually the Tablet was on its own. With characteristic optimism, Burns enlisted a group of eminent trustees, headed by the Duke of Norfolk, who became the paper's owners, and launched sev-

eral appeals for funds. This brave decision paved the way for the Tablet to turn the corner.

The last great event he covered as editor, before handing over the chair to me, was the visit of Pope John Paul II to Britain in 1982. This was during the Falklands war on which. again, Burns took an independent line. In his retirement he and Mabél spent increasingly long periods at their villa on the coast of Andalusia. Here he wrote his memoirs, published by Sheed & Ward under the title The Use of Memory (1993). They are a record of a journey of faith, of friendship and love, coming at the end through all vicissitudes to fulfilment.

John Wilkins

Thomas Ferrier Burns, journalist, publisher. born 21 April 1906; director, Tablet Publishing Com-pany 1935-85; chairman, Burns & Oates 1948-67; Editor, the Tablet 1967-82; OBE 1983; mar-ried 1944 Mabél Marañon (three

### **Wallas Eaton**

"Wal", the very common common man and voice of "Professor" Jimmy Edwards's conscience, first made his heartcry of "Come 'ome, Jim Ed-wards, come hack to the Buildings where you belong!" on 4 January 1949. And in one way or another he went on making this heart-felt plea right to the end, 10 years later, when the BBC's most popular radio series, Take It From Here, closed down. "Wal" was Wallas Eaton, a straight actor turned funnyvoice man via a string of stage revues and comedies including 1066 and All That (1947), Slings and Arrows (1948) and For Amusement Only (1958).

Eaton was born in Leicester in 1917 and educated at the Alderman Newton School. This led to Christ's College, Cam-bridge, where he read History and English. He made his first stage appearance in his home town at the Theatre Royal in 1936, and his London debut at the Old Vic three years later, playing the small part of the Announcer in The Ascent of F6. In 1940 he was the Second Priest in Murder in the Cathedral, which be followed with his first comedy role in The Body Was Well Nourished.

Eaton joined the Army in 1940 and served with distinction in the Second World War, leaving with the rank of major in command of a searchlight battery. In 1944 he appeared in Too True To Be Good at the Lyric

Theatre, Hammersmith, Good, if small, roles continued, including an appearance with Vivien Leigh in The Skin of Our Teeth, Thornton Wilder's "history of our world in comic strip", at the Phoenix in 1945. Films, however, failed to make much use of Eaton, despite a promising début in Caesar and Cleopatra (1945).

Radio was still the main source of family entertainment in the Forties, and creeping up hehind the poll-topping It's That Man Again, starring the na-tion's favourite funny man Tommy Handley, was a brand new post-war series entitled Take It From Here. Written by the new team of Frank Muir and Denis Norden, the only unoriginal thing about it was its title. (This was borrowed from a successful 1943 radio series starring Richard Haydn, the fabulous fish mimic.) The three stars were Professor Jimmy Edwards, an ebullient euphonium player, Master Dick Bentley, ageing huffoon, and the glamorous songstress Joy Nichols. Necessary character voices came from the BBC Drama Rep stalwart Wilfred Babbage, who was soon replaced by Clarence Wright, a refugee from ITMA. As a change from his silly salesman ("Good morning! Nice day!"), Wright played Henpecked Harry Hickory ("Shush . . . I thought it was her for a minute!"). The first programme was broadcast



The Take It From Here team, 1958: Eaton (top) with (from left) Illmmy Edwards, June Whitfield and Dick Bentley

gags continued. "Your Mum's

series opened in 1949 the voice ' Prof. "That's insanitary!" So the of Wallas Eaton was heard on the air for the first time.

As Wal, Eaton brought shame to the Professor by revealing his humble roots in the buildings, presumably Pea-body's. "Come 'ome, Jim Ed-wards," Wal would plead, "the eyes of the Buildings is upon you! Don't desert them what reared you! Oh Jim, they're goin' to tear down the Buildings

being turned out without a donstep to lay 'er 'ead on! She's prostrate!" "Has she tried legal aid?" asked Edwards. "Legal aid, orangeade, methylated spirits," answered Wal. "That's why she's prostrate!" Each series brought a fresh theme, with Wal begging Ed-wards to "Save the Buildings"

or to go straight and marry and make a night-club for the troops. An ENSA niterie."

"Take the plunge, Iim Edected television appearances were wards!" From 1953 Eaton not very frequent. He had parts played the pub landlord to in The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes

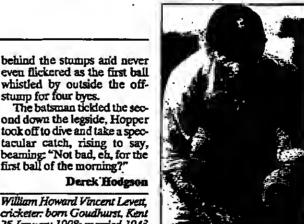
whom Edwards as Pa Glum poured out the latest affairs of his dim son Ron (Bendey) and fiancée Eth, played by the all-purpose genius June Whitfield. Eaton's stage career now really took hold and he was cast

by Joan Littlewood in Fires Ain't Wot They Used TBe (1959). Following a promising debut for BBC Television in Arthur Askey's top-rated series Before Your Very Eyes (1952), Eaton's

and later in the Frankie How erd series Up Pompeii. In 1975 he made a trip to Australia, where he could indulge his favourite hobby of sailing. He decided to settle there - an intriguing choice considering his close involvement with Dick Bentley and Joy Nichols, both Australians who preferred to live in England.

Denis Gifford

Wallas Heaton, actor: born Leicester 18 February 1917: died Australia 3 November 1995.



### Stan Smith

Like his uncle, a member of the 11th Hussars who survived the Charge of the Light Brigade, Stan Smith was himself a survivor - and the last survivor of the "Black Hole of Baku". The story of this appalling incident was not given much publicity, but it bears comparison with the worst atrocities endured by prisoners of the Japanese in the Second World War.

Smith was one of 28 volumteers under Commander Bruce Fraser sent to Bazeli, a port on the Caspian Sea, just after the First World War, in an attempt to prevent the advance of the Bolshevik revolution into Georgia. The whole party was captured and incarcerated in two small earth-floored cells. They were forced to witness atrocities beyond the imagination of any but the depraved. Men and women were disembowelled and mutilated in front of the

navai party and then shot. They had been reported "Missing, believed killed"; they were starving, lousy and in rags. There had been death in the cells, where bodies were left to. decompose. Eventually, after almost two years, Fraser was able to get a concealed message to the British ambassador, carried out by his Georgian interpreter. Out of the 28 fit volunteers, only 14 survived and two of these

died on the hospital boat home.
At the beginning of the war
Smith had enrolled as a 15-yearold in the Royal Navy. At the Battle of Jutland in 1916, he was a gun-layer in the destroyer pedo attack on an enemy battleship, he was the only survivor of his gun's crew: his ship was hit several times, and he was hadly wounded himself.

After recovering from a serious leg wound, Smith volunteered to join one of the "Q-ships"-old merchant ships with concealed guns. After fitting out, Q-12, the first Q-ship, left harbour to swing compasses and was promptly torpe-doed by one of the U-boats she was intended to combat. Onboard the second Q-ship, Smith and his gun's crew faced a submarine's shelling until it came close enough to be itself sunk. ra Flowerdew (two sons, one



ing for the lost Colonel Fawcett in the upper Amazon jungle, pi-rate hunting near Hong Kong, and four years' adventures on the China station, as well as a long commission based in Bermada. Smith's memoirs, Sea of Memories (1985), read like yarns from Boy's Own.

Pensioned in 1939, Smith was recalled within a few weeks of his discharge, at the outbreak of the Second World War. With the rank of Chief Petty Officer he found himself second-incommand of the gunnery train-ing ranges at Sheerness; his batteries defended the Thames estuary and he was frequently under direct air-attack. Smith was responsible for the construction of one of the first Commando Training Courses, as Chief Gunnery Instructor, He was retired a second time at the end of hostilities.

Stan Smith maintained correspondence with his former mmander. Bruce Fraser. They were the last two survivors of the "Black Hole of Baku". Smith, by then in a wheelchair, was the guest of the Royal Navy in 1990 when the Duke of Edinburgh unveiled a bust of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fraser of North Cape in Portsmouth Dockyard. The Duke accepted a copy of Smith's autobiography and Smith was presented with the Union Flag which had

1 1 140 WE 9

The State of Charles

And the second of the second o

veiled the statue. Geoffrey Kemble Johnson

William Stanley Smith, naval officer: born Beccles, Suffolk 23 March 1899; married 1936 Lau-Smith's peacetime career saw daughter); died Beccles 30 him join a naval party search. November 1995.

### **Hopper Levett** only 12 with the bat hut record-

in the days when all first-class cricketers were either Gentlemen or Players a natural path to rapid advancement was to become an amateur wicketkeeper. If the major prize, an England cap, was rarely al-lowed to leave the professionals' graso, there were one or two amateurs good enough to slip through when the stars were injured and the selectors blinked. One such was Howard "Hopper" Levett of Kent who spent most of his career in the shadow of Leslie Ames, with Kent, and in competition with George Duckworth of Lancashire.

He would have been six when the Great War began, snatching just a glimpse of cricket's Golden Age, and was fortunate to attend Brighton College, a school with a reputation for producing cricketers and footballers, even double internationals: Sammy Woods had preceded him and even in such formative years Levett was described as "a genuine character in the true sense of that much ahused word".

in 1948, and when the second

He made his début for Kent when 22 and continued playing until 1947 as very much the specialist wicket-keeper, averaging

ing 467 dismissals, of which. 195 were stumped. He made the first of his four appearances for the Gentlemen at Lord's in 1931 and toured India with MCC in 1933-4 at a time when trips to the subcontinent were much more amateur than pro-fessional. In his one Test, in Cal-

cutta, he took three catches but

scored only 5 and 2 not out. However, in 1937 he was "considered to be well in the running for a trip to Australia" but, once again, Ames recovered from mjury. Sir Pelham Warner still ranked him among

England's top four wicket- behind the stumps and never keepers as late as 1945. It was said of Levett, a man

of great nervous energy, a nonstop chatterer behind the stumps or in the pavilion, that on one of his brilliant days he was the best in the country. A farmer's son, he remained an honoured and admired char-

acter in Kent, that most convivial of county clubs, and was the club's president in 1974. He will be best remembered, with affection, for one of the 25 January 1908; married 1943 game's classic stories. After a Pamela Goodhew (deceased; night of heavy entertaining, Hopper Levett took his place

whistled by outside the offstump for four byes. The batsman tickled the second down the legside, Hopper

took off to dive and take a spectacular catch, rising to say, beaming: "Not bad, eh, for the first ball of the morning?" Derek Hodgson William Howard Vincent Levett,

one child deceased); died 30

November 1995.

cricketer: born Goudhurst, Kent



Levett: 'Not bad, eli?' Photograph: Colorsport

#### Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

ROSS: On 3 December, to Sara and Alex, a beautiful 9th 202 son, Thomas William, Thanks to all at Greenwich Hospital

THORNE: Susan (nee Hawthorne)

and Andrew are delighted to announce the birth of their son Timo-

thy Lindsay on 1 December 1995 – a brother for Melissa.

#### IN MEMORIAM

PIPER: John Andrew, died 9 December 1980. Thinking of you today, as every day. Loving you and missing you, Mary.

Autouncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding autoversaries, In Memorian) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 9171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 6171-293 2012) or fasced to 9171-293 2010, and are charged at 26-59 a line IVAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthtomeroments (notices, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing for faned) and are charged as file a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone mamber.

Changing of the Guard

TODAY: The Household Cavalsy Mount-ed Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham. TO-MORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Goards, 10am; Ist Ballalion The Oneen's Lancashire Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buck-laghum Palace, 11, 30am, band provided

#### Birthdays

TODAX: Miss Joan Armatrading, singer, 45; Viscount Bearsted, banker, 84; Sir Nicholas Bonsor MP, 53; Mr Billy Bremner, former Scottish Rootball captain, 53; Mr Beau Bridges, actor, 54; Sir Stanley Brown, former chairman, CEGB, 85; Sir John Burgh, President, Trinity College, Oxford, 70; Dame Judi Dench, actress, 61; Mr Kirk Douglas, actor, 79; Mr 61; Mr Kirk Douglas, actor, 79; Mr Douglas Fairbanks Jnr, actor, 86; Miss Dawn Freedman, circuit judge, 53; Mr Benny Green, musician, writer and broadcaster, 68; Mr Ge-offrey Hankins, former chairman, Fitch Lovell, 69; Mr Robert Hawke, former prime minister of Australia, 66; Professor Gabriel Horn, Master, oc. Professor College, Cambridge, 68; Dr Lionel Kopelowitz, former President, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 69; Mr Ian MeIntyre, writer and broadcaster, 64; Sir Michael Mann, a Lord Justice of Ap-peal, 65; Mr Donny Osmond, singer, 38; Miss Isobel Poole, Sheriff of the Lothian and Borders, 54: Lord Rees QC, former MP and Chief Secretary to the Trensury, 69; Mr David Rider, disc jockey, 55; Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, operatic soprano, 80; Sir Peter Smithers, former MP, 82; Miss Rita Stephen, trade union leader, 70; Miss Joanna Trollope,

TOMORROW: Sir Scott Baker, High Court judge, 58; Mr John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, 51; Viscount Boyne, Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, 64; Mr Kenneth Branagh, actor, 35; Mr Harry Cohen MP. 46; Sir John Collins, chief executive, Vestey Group, 54: Professor Barry Cunliffe, archaeologist, 56: Miss Rumer Godden, playwright, poet and author, 88; Mr Morton Gould, composer and conductor, 82; Mr Cecil Hallett, former general secretary, AEU, 96; Lord Harris of High Cross, founder President, In-stitute of Economic Affairs, 71; Mr

Michael Jopling MP, 65; Miss Joan Kenworthy, Principal, St Mary's Col-lege, Durham, 62; Mr Jahangir Khan, squash champion, 32; Mr Nicolas Ky-naston, concert organist, 54; Miss Dorothy Lamour, actress, 81; Mr James McAdam, chairman, Signet Group, 65; Mr Raphael Maklouf, sculptor, 58; Mr Michael Manley, for-mer prime minister of Jamaica, 71; Sir Jeremy Motse, former chairman of Lloyds Bank, 67; Sir John Peel, forof Lloyds Bank, 67; Sir John Peel, for-mer surgeon-gynaecologist to the Queeu, 91; Mr Raymond Plummer, ex-President and Honorary Director of the Design and Industries Asso-ciation, 79; Sir Angus Stirling, Director-general, the National Trust, and chairman, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 62; Mr Chad Shiert, pork singer 52; Mr Chin Theast for

#### Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: John Milton, poet, 1608; Joet Chandler Harris, author and creator of "Uncle Remus", 1848; Clarence Birdseye, inventor of the Clareace Birdseye, inventor of the deep-freezing process, 1886; Hermione Ferdinanda Gingold, actress, 1898. Deaths: Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, 1165; Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painter, 1641; Dame Edith Sitwell, author and poet, 1964. On this day; the first execution took piece in Newsate Prison, London, 1783; the in Newgate Prison, London, 1733; the first episode of Coronation Street was televised, 1960; Lech Walesa was ejected president of Poland, 1990. To-day is the Feast Day of St Budoc or Beuzec, St Gorgonia, St Leocadia, St Peter Fourier and The Seven Martyrs of Samosata.

rock singer, 52: Mr Colin Turner, for-mer Rector, Glasgow Academy, 62; Mr Michael Wright, writer, 59.

TOMORROW: Births: César-Auguste Franck, composer, 1872; Emi-ly Elizabeth Dickinson, poet, 1830; Ernest Howard Shepard, illustrator of Winnie the Pook, 1879; Mary Pearson Norton, children's author, 1903.

Deaths: Paolo Uccello (Paolo di Affairs of Japan.

Dono), painter, 1475; Alfred Bernhard Nobel, industrialist and philanthropist, 1896; Charles Rennie Mackintosh, architect and painter, 1928; Luigi Pirandello, playwright and novelist, 1936; Alfred Damon Runger, 1936; Alfred Damon Runger, 1936; Co. 254, Co. 254, Co. 257, Co you, writer, 1946. On this day: the Gregorian calendar was adopted in France, 1582; the first Nobel Prizes were awarded, 1901; Piccadilly underground station was opened in London, 1928; King Edward VIII abdicated, and became Duke of Wind sor, 1936; the UN General Assembly issued the Declaration of Human issued the Declaration of Hirman Righta, 1943. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Edmund Gerhings, St Eulain of Merida, St Eustace White, St Gregory III, pope, St John Roberts, Saints Mannas, Hermogenes and Eugraphus, St Melchiades or Mittades, St Polydore Plaaden and St Swithin Wells.

#### Lectures TODAY .

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "Gold (iii): Giovanni del Ponte, The Ascension of Saint John the Evange-list, with Saints", 12pm. Victoria and Albert Maseum: Nick Barnard, "Hindu Art: the major deitles", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "William Blake's Scale of Achieve-

ment, ipm. TOMORROW National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "Portraits of George Eliot and her Circle", 3pm.

Luncheons Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Com-monwealth Affairs, bosted a huncheon beld yesterday at I Carlton

Jesus had been talking to the crowd for a while. "Master," said his disciples, "it's getting late. Send the people away so they can huy something to eat." Instead came the miracle of the loaves and fishes, and, though the Gospels don't say so, Jesus could presumably carry on tallong. Since that day, church leaders have assumed that boring your listeners is biblical.
Konrad Raiser, head of the World

Council of Churches, was in London last week. He's worried about the WCC's image, and thinks, rightly, that it's con-tributing to the council's cash crisis. So he invited me, and several other members of the religious press, to an informal dinner.

"We are auxious to hear about perceptions and reconciliation is, in the first instance, of the council's work in the UK and how you think we may be able to enhance our image and communication as we seek new sources of income to support the council's work." Well, shorter sentences or a

few more commas would help. I said as much to Cole, my news editor, when I asked him to go in my stead. (The week of the General Synod was not a good one to choose.) Tell them to change their typeface," I suggested. "If they made it higger, they wouldn't be able

to fit as many words on their press releases, and I might begin to read them." I had in mind their release on the Day-ton agreement about Bosnia. In a modest announcement (for them), the WCC "welcomed" the peace agreement: "congratulated" the parties on reaching it: "recognised" that it was not fully secured: reminded us what they had said in Sep-tember about peace having to extend to every minority; and recommitted" themselves to the peoples of Bosnia. The release concluded: "Reconstruction

# faith reason

Church leaders who let their audience nod

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches could learn from newspapers, suggests Paul Handley, Editor of the Church Times.

the task of the peoples of Bosnia. The WCC stands ready to help them in their efforts to reconstruct not only their homes, but also their communities in the spirit of peace and tolerance." Once again, we didn't report any of it; here was a chance to tell them why.

"We are anxious," said the letter of invitation, "to hear about perceptions of the council's work." So anxious, that Kourad Raiser stood up and talked for 40 minutes. At a dinner which started at 7.30pm, questions weren't taken till nearly 10. Cole got up and left.

It's probably just the effect of the General Synod, but I'm less tolerant of verwish they would admit defeat sooner.

terated (oh, all right, with a few interpo-lations) is a paragraph from that lecture, chosen at random. We sneak into the church halfway through the lecture. "... Any such theology must begin with God's presence in the Church. [Platitude.] We are here as the body of Christ, our says is to witness to his love for the two detays.

is to witness to his love for the world shown in Christ. [Platitude, slightly garbled.] The Church, therefore, should always aim to be present seven days a week in our communities, reaching out in faith and hope.
[Another platitude, indicating we are on autopilot here.] That suggests that we must be prepared to look at our resources, not with eyes eager to maintain what we have cherished in the past, but with eyes eager for mission. [Aha, making a bit of a point here. Still, mustn't alarm the listeners, so . . ] In saying that, I am still convinced in [sic] the power of worship to draw peo-ple to God and of effective preaching as a tool for teaching and evangelism. There - have we gone far enough back?] But [advancing again, more cautiously this time] we must respond to the fact that, if indeed it was ever the case [qualification] that church worship and preaching on its own

or less, to where we started.]" It is unfair to single out these two. Most hiage than usual. Generally, I accept it as church leaders, aside perhaps from the an occupational hazard. I accept that re-ligious leaders are constantly trying to de-scribe the indescribable, but sometimes I tice their audience nodding. But that is why So I reacted badly to a recent lecture they so seldom get reported. Newspapers given by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

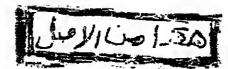
The press is often criticised for heing selective; here, unexpurgated and unadulated and George Carey, take note.

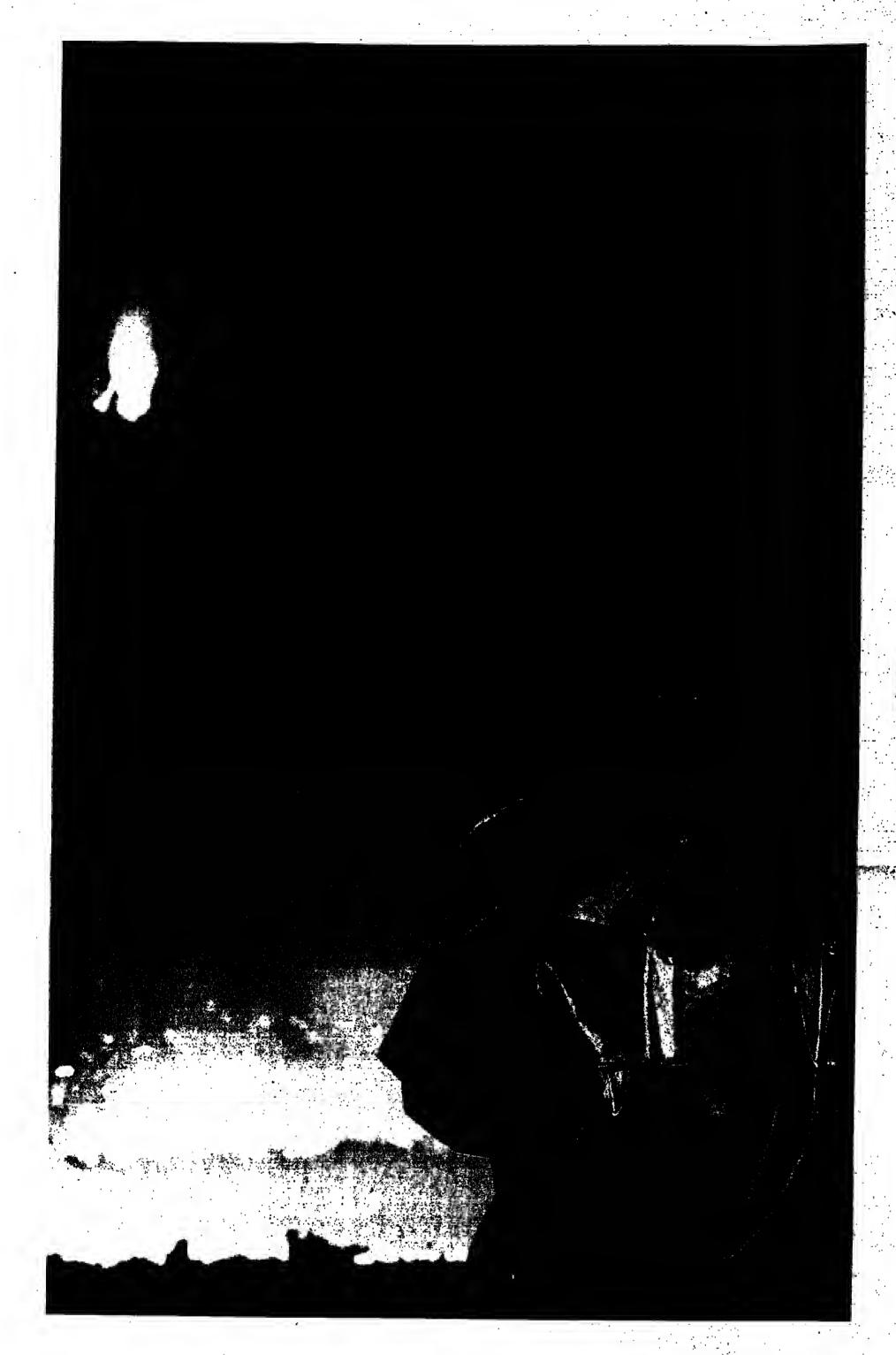
[qualification] can no longer be treated as

the entire [yet another qualification] are-

na for mission and service. [Back, more

احكامت الاعل





IN THE FIERY CAULDRONS of the Ohio Valley, o newly competitive company has been built.

By reworking business practices and rethinking computer systems, AK Steel now yields more profit per ton of steel than any other steel company in the United States.

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Solutions for a small planet

mes over Grid sale per Report: What is Akilife calls in Bond Silisuisi inite more are INBRIEF es lesco shappers lests victory on Zantac

god faith to consistence with

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

# Sultan 'offers £300m' for top hotel as Forte fights back

JOHN SHEPHERD

The Sultan of Brunei, the world's richest man, is understood to have made a £300m offer to huy Forte's prestigions Grosvenor House hotel in London's exclusive Park Lane. The Sultan aiready owns the Dorchester adjacent to the Grosvenor. which makes profits of around £15m a year.

Selling the Grosvenor could damage Granada's frontal E3.3bn takeover assault on the country's largest hotels operator. At a stroke it would erase almost a quarter of Forte's £1.3bn mountain of debts.

Investors yesterday showed signs of concerns about Granada's ability to win the fight. Granada's shares, which were just 3p shy of 700p on the eve of its bid move a fortnight ago. dropped 11p to 634p, Yesterday's movement increased the There was widespread specu-

share terms. Forte's market price of 338.5p, up 0.5p, is now 12.8p above the value of the bid terms, compared with 9.3p at the close of dealings on Thursday.

One dealer said that an unknown American client of one of the big broking houses was trying to sell up to 3 million shares in Granada, "Nobody wants them ... and it will probably take him until the middle of next week before he can dumo them," the dealer added.

On the Sultan's offer, industry sources said that Forte was keen to secure a management contract to run the Grosvenor if it accepts the Sultan's offer. The sources also said that Forte had simultaneously made an approach to the Sultan to manage the Dorchester. It is believed that Forte's board considered the offer at a meeting yesterday.

difference of Granada's cash and lation about a possible deal with the Sultan in early summer. Forte declined to comment on what husinesses - other

than the US Travelodge and White Hart hotel chains - it plans to sell. There was a broad hint in the defence document, released yesterday, that it would sell some trophy hotels: "Real-ising the value of significant hotel assets, whilst retaining management contracts, is fast becoming an attractive option as the hotels market strength-

ens." the document said. There is additional speculation that Forte is aiming to sell three other London hotels, the Russell, George and Cavendish which analysts calculate could fetch £125m - and four overseas. Forte also declined to comment on speculation that it was considering offers for the Wheeler's fish restaurants. The official line in the de-

fence document was that further disposals were in the pipeline to realise over £200m. The Sultan's offer is understood to have been made while the document was being printed.

Granada and leisure analysts in the City said the defence document was "tame" and raised more questions than it gave answers about Forte's own plans to demerge.

John Dear, managing director of Lazard Bros, the merchant bank advising Granada. said: The defence document is extremely thin. We thought they were going to give clear de-tail of their demerger. All they say is wait and see, and we'll do it sometime next summer. That is an odd thing to say to shareholders. He also criticised Forte's forecast of a profits rise of at least 46 per cent to £185m for the financial year to the end of January, "This is only a 7.5

#### Forte's Defence

- Pre-tax profit up 46% to at least £185m before exceptional profits
- Earnings per share up 40% to at least 14.1p before exceptional profits
- London hotel revenue per available room up 14%
- UK provincial hotel revenue per available room up 7%
- International hotel revenue per available room (excluding Paris) up 9%

per cent return on net assets. We could do better just by sticking the money in the gilts

Asked whether Granada's share price fall could hinder the chances of increasing the bid terms, Mr Dear said: "It is far too early to talk about a higher offer - you go through phases in any bid, Shares go up and

Keith Hamill, the finance director of Forte, dismissed Mr Dear's attack, "Granada has consistently put up a five year record of this company [Forte]. I would do the same if I was them ... but the threevear record since Rocco took over control of the company as executive chairman is impressive.

Comment, page 25.

Hatchet job: 'New boy' Leng's plan to close 10 manufacturing sites hits shares for six

## Warning by Laporte shocks City

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

Jim Leng's honeymoon at Laporte came lo an abrupt end yesterday as the City wiped £333m off the value of Britain's second-biggest chemicals group. The company's shares tumbled 173p to 610p after Mr Leng, chief, executive only since 1 October, warned that profits would be 10 per cent down oo last year and said he planned to shut 10 of Laporte's 100 man ufacturing siles.

That shocked analysts who had expected a continuation of the past three years of growth in profits at the speciality chemicals group, whose brands include Evode. Forecasts of £140m were hacked back by £30m to match the company's estimate. An £85m restructuring provision will knock a further hole in the figures.

Mr Leng said: "Following the operational review, which has just been completed. I believe the core of the group is in good shape. We have a number of businesses which continue to trade strongly, although these have been unable to offset disapointing performances else-

where in the group." The main problem areas are the production of chemicals for the construction market, which remains depressed, and bulk polymer chemicals. Laporte's Australian and South American operarations were also below expectations.

was doubly shocking because only three months ago, just before Mr Leng joined Laporte, the company produced a sparkling set of interim figures, showing a 14 per cent rise in interim profits 10 £67m.

It also came as a rude shock to investors who had warmly welcomed the appointment of . Mr Leng. His move from Dundee-based packaging group. Low & Bonar, sent that compagy's shares tumbling a porte's sharply higher.

The 49-year old Geordie is held in such high esteem by the City thanks to the transformation of Low & Bonar in the three years since he look over as chief executive there. Between 1992 and 1994 pre-tax profits doubled from £22m to £44m. Laporte was so impressed by Mr Leng's record that they doubled his salary from £175,000 a year at Low & Bonar to a basic £350,000. If he does as well at Laporte he will also be entitled to a performance-related bonus of 30 per cent of that.

The restructuring announced yesterday was arrived at a hectic nine weeks after Mr Leng joined. The main element of the programme will be a £50m sequence of site closures, the benefits of which are expected to show through in group profits during 1996 and should be "sig-nificant" in 1997 and beyond. Other measures include a

£30m .write-down of non-

Slowdown: Jim Leng, chief executive, joined Laporte three months ago Photograph: FT

performing assets and a £5m replace Ken Minton, the comwrite-off of goodwill. Despite the provision and profit warning. Mr Leng promised to main-tain the full-year dividend at last year's level of 22.4p, implying a 4.6 per cent yield at yesterday's closing share price.

pany's previous chief executive, who moved into the nonexecutive chair and took on the job of sorting out Mowlem, the struggling construction company that until recently owned Although he had no previ-Mr Leng joined Laporte to

was on the brink of Footsie

ous experience of the chemieals industry he was attracted by the prospect of navigating the company into the FT-SE 100 index. Before yesterday's announcement the company

Investment Column, page 25

### Asbestos victory lifts T&N

**MAGNUS GRIMOND** 

T&N, formerly Britain's higgest asbestos group, was yesterday celebrating what could be the end of massive asbestos claims overhanging the company after a US jury threw out a \$185m case brought by Chase Manhattan. The share price soured 35p to 165p yesterday, adding £185m to the company's steek market value, as both T&N and analysts heralded the outcome as a potential turning point in the asbestos litigation that has already cost 200m over the past 10 years.

On Thursday a jury in a New York court decided against Chase Manhattan Bank after it had claimed it had not been warned about the dangers of asocsios installed in its nead quarters building in the city. The outcome of the case, potentially the biggest relating to properly facing T&N, cante a matter of hours after a \$600m claim against the company and 36 other defendants was settled for £6.5m, a fraction of curlier estimates.

Colin Hope, T&N chairman, said vesterday the group was near to seeing the end of US property claims. Asbestos-re-lated cases and illnesses would rumble on, he believed, but the trends in the company's liabilities were becoming more controlled. "I just do think we are coming slowly and steadily down the right side of the hill." He warned that personal health cases were and remained a much bigger problem than

those linked to property. Sandy Morris, engineering analyst at NatWest Securities, said Chase could still appeal Thursday's decision, but added T&N appeared to have won a fairly comprehensive victory.

### IN BRIEF

\$ (London) 1,5274 -1.04c 1,5597 £ (London) 0.6547 0.44 0.641

\$ (N York) ‡ 1.5330 -0.35c 1.56 \$ (N York) ‡ 0.8523 0.15 0.641

DM (London) 2.2[16 -0.52pt 2.4801 DM (London) 1.4480 0.64pt 1.5773

\* (London) 154.644 - Y0.95156.222 \* (London) 1.01.250 + Y0.06100.165

OTHER INDICATORS

 Oil Brent \$ 17.73 +0.16
 16.27
 RPI
 149.8+3.2pc
 24 14 Dec

 Gold \$ 389.70 +1.00
 378.0
 GOP 106.6 2.1pc
 4.3 21 Dec

 Gold £ 255.14 +2.38 241.578
 Base Rates -6.75pc
 5.25

82.50 -0.30 80.3 \$ index

How York enchange rates and till Brent January at 1430 hours

#### Asda woos Tesco shoppers

Britain's supermarket war escalated yesterday when Asda moved to test the loyalty of rival Tesco shoppers by saying it would accept their money-off vouchers at seven of its stores. The vouchers are part of Tesco's Clubcard scheme, launched earlier this year, which was aimed at rewarding customer loyalty with the objective of overtaking arch-rival J Sainsbury as the UK's largest volume food retailer.

#### Glaxo wins US victory on Zantac

Zantac, Glaxo Wellcome's best-selling anti-ulcer drug, will re-tain an additional 18 months of patent protection following the defeat of proposals to close a legal loophole in the US Senate. The decision could be worth billions of dollars in additional sales for Zantac. It comes in the wake of US implementation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade treaty last year, which extended patent protection by up to three years, or 18 months

#### **Building societies expand horizons**

The Government yesterday introduced new measures that include allowing building societies to diversify. In future they will be allowed to own an insurance company which underwrites personal lines insurance. Other measures include enabling a society to provide for a more "user-friendly" presentation of financial information to members and allowing societies to lend gilt-edged securities to other counterparties and not only to Stock Exchange

#### Management shake-up at Cray

Roger Holland is expected to step down as chairman of Cray Electronics next week when the troubled data communications group announces worse-than-expected interim results. Sources close to the company say the losses after taking into account exceptional charges for stock write-down will be more than £10m. Mr Holland was widely blamed for failing to warn shareholders about last year's losses - of £835,000 - at the time of the group's interim results. He is likely to be replaced by Alec Daley, who was brought on to the board in October.

#### Life firms 'fail to meet deadline'

Most UK life companies will not meet the regulatory deadline of December this year for the Pensions Review of opt-outs and transfers set by the Securities and Investments Board, according to a survey by Touche Ross. The accountancy firm said: "While life offices are putting significant effort into the review, it is now clear that the process is much more complex than originally envisaged. This complexity is extending the timescales and the speed with which many policyholders will have their policies reviewed."

### Media group turns to outdoor advertising

The Irish Independent media group has set up a joint venture company with the French media and communications group, Havas, to supply a new form of outdoor advertising, mitially in France but eventually elsewhere. The new company, in which the two groups will have a 50/50 stake, combines affiliates of the respective group, Snocco and Avenir, and will be called Snocco International. It will be headed by the general director of Avenir, Philippe Santini; the general director of Sirocco, Bernard Piol will be vice-chairman. The firm will pioneer the use of illuminated advertising hoarding sites in city and suburban ar-

### Auditors attacked on relocation |BT in new Oftel

Amec may pursue McAlpine link-up

#### JOHN WILLCOCK and ROGER TRAPP

MPs, accountancy firms and City figures yesterday criticised Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young over their plans for relocating offshore to gain protection against negligence

Adrian Martin, managing partner of BDO Stoy Hayward, which itself faces large suits over the collapses of Polly Peck and Astra, said: "It looks very tacky.

The issue has come to a head following a record £105m award for negligence on Wednesday against auditors Binder Hamlyn, whose 150 partners now face ruin. PW and Ernst will announce next week that they

Amec, the UK contractor, may

pursue further merger talks with Alfred McAlpine if it

escapes a £360m bid from the

Norwegian shipping group

Sir Alan Cockshaw, Amec's

chairman, said the logic of a

link-up with McAlpine still

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Kvaerner.

are registering in Jersey in-stead of the mainland. Under British law partners are allowed to limit their liability only if they take no part in running the husiness.

Matthew Carrington, Con-servative member of the influential Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee, said: "I think it is appalling... Auditors should be kept accountable, but the law should be changed where necessary to give them reasonable protection so they can remain in a properly regulated environment

Prem Sikka, professor of accountancy at the University of East London, attacked PW and Ernst for their move offshore:"We need more cases like the Binder judgment. It will

would not rule out attempts to

its first detailed defence of

Kvaerner's £1-a-share bid.

pledging to deliver greater val-

ue for shareholders after a ma-

Sir Alan said Kvaerner's bid

did not take into account

Amec's forecast 39 per cent in-

made sense and the company crease in operating profit for the

jor overhaul of operations.

Amec yesterday produced

negotiate with its UK rival.

bring home to accountancy ing driven to it out of necessi-firms that what they do affects by. The Institute was continufirms that what they do affects people. The law should be changed so that firms owe a re-sponsibility to shareholders of the companies they audit as

Other accountancy firms said that registering in somewhere like the Channel Islands, The Isle of Man or Liechtenstein might look as if they were running away. The Institute of Chartered Accountants said it had no problem with such moves because its audit regulations would still apply if they were auditing UK companies. It was not unethical and it was up to firms to do what they thought was best, said technical

"they prohably feel they are be-

cast, though turnover for next

year is put at 12 per cent. The

published in the defence docu-

ment. Peter Mason, chief ex-

ecutive designate, promised a

detailed review of operations.

"I expect that changes will need

In a letter to shareholders

order book stands at £2.3bn.

year to 31 December 1995. to be made to improve profit-

Takeover rules restrict Amec ability and avoid the problems

from making a 1996 profit fore- of the past," he said. "I intend

ing to press for legal reform and would be using the Binder judgement as added evidence in its discussions with the DTI. Meanwhile, it emerged that

the various moves aimed at giving protection against claims might prompt clients to seek cuts in audit fees. Simon Rees. founding partner of Rees Poltock, a niche firm operating in the City, said that much of the current fees reflected the fact that auditors would be fully liable if something went wrong. If that changed clients would seek reductions.

Of the big six, Cooper & Lybrand and Arthur Andersen say they are continuing to look at director Bruce Picking, adding all the options, but are not

to take whatever action is re-

quired to ensure that Amee de-

livers value to shareholders.

Kyaerner said the comments

There will be no sacred cows."

demonstrated that the compa-

ny was set for a lengthy shake-

up that would delay any returns

to shareholders.

# charges dispute

#### MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

A bitter row has erupted between BT and the industry watchdog. Oftel, over the amount the company should charge other companies that need to use its wires.

Oftel wants charges reduced by 35 per cent this year at a cost to BT of tens of millions of pounds but the company says the cut should be much less and attacked the regulator for trying to change the rules.

Don Cruickshank, director general of Oftel, accused BT of wrongly allocating costs in calculating what its rivals must pay, In a statement issued yesterday, he said: "Other operators ought

redundancy costs, vacant accommodation, chairman's office and publicity costs (which inelude the costs of campaigns to win back customers from other operators))."

Mr Cruickshank said that BT's refusal to agree the relevant costs was "disappointing" but hoped to resolve the issue early in the new year. He said: "It is clear that there is a heavier burden of proof on Oftel to show why these costs should be excluded and where they should properly fall than we had previously thought."

A spokesman for BT said: "This is about whether Don Cruickshank should be free to ignore the rules in BT's licence which he finds inconvenient or not to have to contribute, not to his taste. He denied BT interconnection was trying to delay a determicharges, to BT's substantial nation of this year's charges.

#### 'Independent' Money on Saturday

#### In the 'Weekend' section today

- Fund managers: Donedin wins prizes with
- unquoted shares
- Mortgages: Critics snipe at hidden charges
- · Heating costs: How your home measures up Investment: Taking a punt on Irish shares

25 26 26

ole material

#### DATA BANK

FT-SE 100 3,630.0 - 9.5 FT-SE 250 3,933.2 - 20.7

FT-SE 350 1,798.9 - 5.8 **SEAQ VOLUME** 683.7m shares, 28,460 bargains Gilts Index

#### 96.15 + 0.12SHARE SPOTLIGHT



DJFMAMJJASDND

BANKS, RETAIL

There has for long been a Lord Wolfson of Sunning-feeling that Great Universal dale is chairman of Next and Stores and Next; the revieach other.

Sunningdale will replace his cousin, Lord Wolfsoo of Marylebone, as GUS chairman would bring on board David at least some flesh on the

bones of the merger idea. GUS shares outperformed other blue chips, gaining 33p 10 665p, a year's high. They have climbed 51p since the change at the top became known on Thursday.

The stock market view is that GUS's management, al-though sound, could do with a little more zip. Once highly secretive, it has adopted a more outgoing approach in recent years. Yet it is still regarded as inward looking and uncommunicative compared with most other blue chips.

Lord Wolfsoo of Sunningwill remain so when he takes talised retailer, are made for over at GUS, once known in the market as "Gorgeous The announcement this Gussies". A merger with Next week that Lord Wolfson of is seen as a logical extension of

in September is seen as putting Jones, the company's manag-

ing director. With Lord Wolfson, Mr Jones rescued Next, turning it into one of the country's bestperforming retailers. The shares were down to the equivalent of 13.5p at Christmas five years ago. Yesterday they slipped 5p from their 449p

GUS is cash-rich and could comfortably swallow the much smaller Next. The suspición Mr Jones

would revitalise GUS, inject-ing the Next philosophy, is be-hind the strength of GUS shares. The group's interim re-

MARKET REPORT

printer soon to be removed

from Footsie, rose 33p to 685p and another reject, Arjo Wig-

to market capitalisation, the

shares look undervalued.

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

Match-makers see GUS and Next as a tailor-made fit

sults were at best solid with the also hit sentiment. Shares of market looking for year's figthe chemical group crashed 173p to 610p, putting the dampener on other chemical ures of £590m against £560.9m. NatWest Securities reduced counters. But T&N, on the asbestos

its rating from add to hold.
The market ended the week
with the FT-SE 100 index off 9.5 points at 3,630. Shares have fallen back each day this week with Footers at 2,630. cent run of aero engine orders, gaining 2.5p to 174.5p. De La Rue, the security week with Footsie down 50 points. It is the longest bear run since September last year when the index fell for seven trading

For a time yesterday it looked as though blue chips would end an a positive note. But New York's failure to hold early strength proved too

Laporte's profit warning

INSURANCE

INTERNATIONALS

National Grid, due to make its first official appearance oo Monday, was a shade firmer at 209p in its when-issued form. Trading was brisk with Seaq putting turnover at 17.1 million. Charterhouse Tilney is looking

for a gain of up to 15p in the first few days of trading.

Vickers, the engineering group embracing Rolls-Royce cars, held at its year's high of 280p. There is talk GKN is contemplating a bid

280p. There is talk GKN is con-templating a bid.

Tate & Lyle improved 8p to
465p following a Merrill Lynch
presentation. US support lifted
Unilever 23p to 1,328p and
BSkyB added 16.5p to 418.5p
following plans for new TV
channels. Reed International
continued to feet about Intercontinued to fret about Inter-. gins Appleton, gained 3.5p to 162p. Incheape continued to fall, down 4.5p to 206.5p although on one investment yardstick, the ratio of turnover oet competition, declining a

further 21p to 987p.
Amstrad dropped 13p to 238.5p; the shares have falleo from 283p sioce chairman Alan Sugar said last week that trading was tough.

OIL INTEGRATED

OTHER FINANCIAL.

Insurances were weak on the Shares of Oliver, the lack of takeover action with Sun Alliance, off 13p at 374p,

leading the retreat. The bio-babes were mixed ing, falling 82p to 1,528p. Biotrace lost 5p to 34p and

Proteus 15p to 111p.

Devro International, the sausage skin maker, rose 12p £31m through a placing and open offer to help pay for Teepak International, its US counterpart. Shares will be

helped Tadpole Technology 13p higher to 79p.

Antooov, with a revoludeal with a car maker was at are John East & Partners last about to be clinched.

struggling shoe retailer with 380 branches, lost their down-at-heel look, striding

TAKING STOCK

22.5p to 63.5p. It is expected with British Biotech suc-cumbing to further profit-takwhich is to be used for retailing following Leicester City Council's decision to withdraw its objection. Oliver, beaded by company doctor to 251p as it said it would raise Denis Cassidy, is expected to suffer a trading loss of about £5m this year.

Another offbeat AIM replaced at 230p.

Firecrest, only a few weeks ago the Internet wonder share, al, which has developed a cruit; a company called Self Sealing Systems Internationfell 20p to 145p but what was method of sealing balloons, is thought to be bear closing raising £1.06m by placing shares at 54p. Its "illustrative" projections suggest a loss of more than £1m for the tionary gearbox, rose 10p to current 20 months with prof-136p on talk the long awaited its next year. Behind the issue and broker IA Pritchard.

#### SHARE PRICE DATA

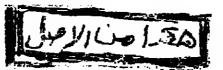
Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last your's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/carnings (P/E) ratio is the Other details: xr Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex-all a Unlisted Securities Market a Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nij Paid Shares. Source: Finstat.

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crisis g



### business

With Chase Manhattan's failure to win even a dime of compensation for the asbestos that was used in its head office more than 30 years ago, T & N can safely assume that other property-related claims will now

quickly fall away

### One claim down, but 80,00 still to go for T&N Cood news: T&N has won a landmark US | Budget day a year ago to announce a fur-legal ruling in its battle against asbestos | Budget day a year ago to announce a fur-legal ruling in its battle against asbestos | Armley case. T & N may be right. The worst | any unforeseen issues that cropped up. By | problem at the heart of all their reforms. One way to resolve it is the creation of could well be over. But it seems equally pos-tinsisting on a wide remit. Sir Ronald set a

related claims. Bad news: there are at least another 80,000 claims to come. Most companies have to spend a certain amount of time dealing with overhangs from the past but al T&N, better known by its former name of Turner & Newall, dealing with the legacy of its once pioneering wonder product is a task so great that it is almost overwelming. This depressing consuming and largely thank-less work has fallen on a management which had nothing to do with the company when it actually made asbestos; that belonged to a different generation.

On the whole, however, it has managed to deal with this difficult and distracting business m a professional and bumane manner. Furthermore, unlike many others caught up in asbestos related litigation, it bas survived. Many of its competitors are no longer here to meet burgeoning claims for compensation. Under the guiding hand of Colin Hope, chairman, T&N has emerged better from the wreckage of asbestos than nearly all others involved in this business.

Its fault has been to raise City expectations about when we might finally see an end to the constant provisioning and legal wran-ging to unrealistically high levels. A year ago last summer, the shares were on a roll, buoyed by a landmark settlement that many, including the company, thought might ber-ald an end to the perpetual round of litiga-tion. Not so. By chance or design T&N chose years, because of an "unexpected rise in claims". The shares plunged

Hope springs eternal and Mr Hope (sorry) was yesterday once again expressing the belief that T&N has finally got the the mea-sure of the asbestos problem. Is his optimism any better founded this time round? Certainly T&N seems finally to have seen off the property related claims. With Chase Manhatten's failure to win even a dime of compensation for the asbestos that was used in construction of its head office more than 30 years ago, T&N can safely assume that other property related claims will now quickly fall way. The same cannot be said of health claims, where the issues are more emotive. At this juncture T&N is probably right in its assertion that provisions already made are more than adequate to meet known claims. If even a small proportion of the 80,000 refusing to join the US out-of-court settlement succeed in their claims, however, the company may be in trouble again.

Furthermore, the boundaries of litigation in this area are constantly being pushed out. The recent Armley case extended potential claimants in Britain from former employees to those living in the vacinity of the company's factories. The next logical step would be to make the company liable to all those with mesothelioma, a lung cancer caused by asbestos. The company thinks this highly

sible that the worst is still to come.

#### Sir Ronald looks for reform not revolution

Sir Bryan Nicholson, president of the CBI, has an amusing explanation of why Sir Richard Greenbury accepted his invitation to chair the committee on top pay, the hottest seat of the year. "I called him on my car phone and you know how had they sound - I think he thought I was inviting him to

The hot seat, or at least a very warm equivalent, is now occupied by another senior husinessman, Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI. After the pay row, he can bave few illusions about the chairmanship of the relaunched Cadbury Committee on corporate governance, which is to review the work of both the Greenbury and Cadhury Committees. As Sir Richard Greenbury found to ; his cost, the scope for misunderstandings in sial question on the Labour agenda is these areas is enormous. Sir Ronald has whether there should be a board member already experienced one.

According to the CBI, all seven organisations that set up Cadbury Mark II agreed that it was time to digest past reforms, rather than launch any grand new initiative. Before porate policemen, acting on behalf of share-

Yesterday, he was distancing himself as fast as he could from suggestions that these terms of reference presaged a fundamental review of the entire corporate governance structure in the UK. If there is a quicker way than this to make himself a pariab in British hoardrooms, it is bard to think of one, and Sir Ronald made clear he had proposed nothing of the sort.

He said: "I don't believe there is anything fundamentally wrong with governance in this country. The committee's remit is wide ranging. It gives an opportunity for any relevant subject to be discussed. But I don't want to give the impression that we are concentrating on any one thing or the other because I genuinely don't know."

Should Sir Ronald he so cautious about

bis objectives? If there is a Labour government it is certain to give the British boardroom another going over, and perhaps he should get his oar in first. One controverwith formal responsibility for representing outside interests such as sbareholders.

porate policemen, acting on behalf of share-holders, but failed to acknowledge that the he took the chairmanship. Sir Ronald holders, hut failed to acknowledge that the insisted on maximum flexibility in the terms law makes no such distinction between difunlikely but it also thought that about the of reference, so the committee could tackle ferent types of director. This creates a

One way to resolve it is the creation of a two-tier board, a Continental concept much reviled in Britain. The claimed drawbacks may be exaggerated, but so are the benefits: look at how ineffective the Phillips supervisory board was as the company drew near the brink of collapse a few years ago. Sir Ronald should certainly make one of his taks a way of hring shareholder representation into the boardroom in a more formal way -without all that Continental paraphernalia.

#### Unease at Granada's knockout power

Porte's official defence document, published yesterday, was a tame enough affair but before it rolled off the printing presses at lunchtime there were langible signs of unease about Granada's ability to deliver a knock-out higher offer sometime next month.

Granada's shares tumbled 11p to 634p while Engage General 0.5p to 338.5p. Those

while Forte firmed 0.5p to 338.5p. Those movements widened the gap hetween Granada's hid terms and Forte's market price from just 6p a couple of days ago to almost 13p. More worrying still for the Granada camp is that Granada's recently declared 8p dividend will be stripped out of the price in early January. That implies an underlying price of 626p, which is only 1p above the 625p at which Lazards, Hoare Govett and BZW underwrote the bid.

Yorkshire Water: City analysts lukewarm at appointment of industry insider as new managing director

## Difficult mission for Bond as water crisis grows

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

Beleaguered Yorkshire Water bas moved to defuse rows over water sbortages and quality of He called on Yorkshire Water service by appointing Kevin not to go ahead with possible Bond, chief executive of the "rota cuts" which could leave

The appointment of Mr lyst said: "This is pretty neutral. body and hardly the most dy- water industry and his undernamic organisation in the standing of the many complex a further blow to its angry cus-

Paul Taylor, Yorkshire regional manager for the customer

He has a demonstrable comservice committee of the regu- mitmenl to customer service. lator. Ofwat said: "We welcome and to environmental immanagement with an interest in provement and will be a valuwater and an understanding of able addition to the water the issues, but I cannot comment

Mr Taylor said that the main priority was for the company to end the long-running uncer-tainty for customers about the supply situation in the region. National Rivers Authority, as . some people without supplies the managing director of the on alternate days and which may begin in the New Year.

The appointment of a new Bond, 45, to the £135,000 a year managing director has been post follows months of adverse. delayed by the difficulties the publicity since the drought in company has experienced in rethe middle of the year. But the cent months. Tony Ward, Mr move failed to impress some Bond's predecessor, had in-City analysts who had been ex- tended to retire in September pecting an appointment from but this has now been deferred outside the industry. One anauntil early next year. Sir Gordon Jones, chairman, said: "Kevin's experience of the

issues it faces will be of great asservices business and to the plc

up 1p at 624p. The company added that the arrival of Mr Bond brings it close to the end of a restructuring which has taken place over the last two years. Recently Yorkshire appointed a new finance director. Brian Wilson, formerly with Norweb, the electricity company.

Yorkshire Water's problems were exacerbated in November when it emerged as one of several firms singled out by the watchdog, Ian Byait, for failing to come up to scratch on some water treatment and pollution issues. Ofwat said vesterday that the appointment of Mr Bond was an issue for management but that it viewed it as "interesting".

Two weeks ago the firm deal! tomers by saying that it was considering compulsory metering. At the same time it announced that it had continued to lift profits during the summer when water supplies were at risk.

Yorkshire announced a 10 per



Sir Gordon Jones: Praised Bond's commitment to customers and environment Guzelian

cluding a £25m restructuring charge, which beld hack 1994's first half, profits jumped 48 per cent in the period, from £67.2m to £99.5m. The compaccut rise in underlying profits for my is likely to have to invest the six months to September. In-

per cent of its supplies before they reach the taps.

The problems show little sign of abating. Reservoirs which have normally regained 60 per a week.

sources and stern leaking pipes. cent of capacity by this time of year are only 20 per cent full year are only 20 per cent full - as low as they have been all year. The company is moving water by road tanker to the worst-hit areas at a cost of £3m

### **US** rate cuts expected on job figures

PAUL WALLACE **Economics Editor** 

Fresh signs of weakness in the economy fuelled expectations that US interest rates will be cut when the Federal Reserve

meets a week on Tuesday. Modest growth in the key jobs figure signalled a weakening US economy. The sales of new homes were also much lower than had been expected.

The 30 year Treasury bond initially soared by a point on hopes of an early cut in rates but

later fell back on profit-taking.

"The figures increase the pressure on the Fed to ease rates," said Gerard Lyons, economist at DKB International, suggesting that the Fed was likely to bring down rates by a quar-ter of a percentage point.

"They certainly support the

case for an easing of monetary policy," said Mark Cliffe, inter-Markets, "but the Fed is still concerned about the budget negotiations."

Non-farm payrolls, a keenly watched indicator of the state of the economy, certainly offered several clues of developing weakness. The increase of 166,000 was in line with market expectations, but official sta- agreement for government tisticians said 69,000 was due to spending expires.

special factors. That brought the monthly increase down to around 100,000, a long way off the growth of over 200,000 seen when the economy was ex-panding fast. In addition, the Octoher figure was revised down by 50,000 to 66,000.

A further sign of increasing slack in the economy was that the average weekly hours worked, a good proxy for GDP growth, dropped in October. Hourly earnings also eased and the rate of unemployment rose

from 5.5 to 5.6 per cent. Another indication of gathering economic weakness was a sharp decline in the sales of new homes, leaving them at their lowest level since May.

The main obstacle to a cut in rates is the continuing stand-off between the Clinton administration and the Republican Congress over the federal budget. This was intensified on Thursday when the adminis tration sent Congress its own plan for balancing the budget within seven years. However, it was immediately given the thumbs down by Republican spokesmen.

A new showdown now threatcns at the end of next week when the temporary funding

### Recs grit teeth for Grid sale tax bill

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor** 

Regional electricity companies were bracing themselves yesterday for tens of millions of extra capital gains tax if the price of National Grid shares jumps significantly on Monday, when fficial trading begins. The way was paved for the

flotation when extraordinary general meetings of seven of the 12 Recs approved distribution of the companies' grid stakes to their shareholders. This means REC shareholders will own just over half the Grid when trading starts.

However, there were suggestions in the market that the opening price could be 220p or more compared with the 209p at which Grid shares closed last night on the grey market, which trades the right to huy the real paper next week.

Last night's grey market val-uation of the Grid was £3.5bn, in line with the estimate made at the time of a complex tax and customer rebate deal with the Government.

Estimates of the capital gains tax hill for the Recs were based on a £3.5bn valuation but at 220p the Grid would be worth nearly £3.7bm, bringing a sig-nificant extra tax benefit for the Government. Capital gains tax is likely to be based on the value of the Grid on the first day of

Directors will be able to count their stakes on Monday. Executive directors are lo receive extra dividends worth £408,000 on top of shares worth £1.23m and potential option profits of another £400,000, based on the grey market price.

#### IN BRIEF

#### Devro seeks £31m for Teepak buy

Devro International, the Scottish artificial sausage skin maker, has announced a £31m placing and open offer to back the ac-quisition of Teepak International, a leading US maker of meat casings. The full \$133m cost of Teepak will be met by a cash pay-ment of \$46m, \$52.3m in preference shares and the remainder in new Devro ordinary shares.

The purchase follows provisional clearance of the purchase given by the US Federal Trade Commission on Tuesday. The onefor 10 placing at 230p a share is being underwritten by Charterhouse Bank.

#### Fuller brews up 22% profits rise

Fuller Smith & Timer, the regional brewer based in London, boosted taxable profits 22 per cent to slightly more than £5m in the half-year to 30 September. The interim dividend rises from 2.65p to 2.92p. Volume beer sales rose by 9 per cent, and by 3 per cent in Fuller's own pubs.

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries has retained a beer supply contract for 500 of the Inntrepreneur Pub Company's outlets. The contract had to be put out to tender to satisfy undertakings agreed with the Office of Fair Trading when S&N bought the Courage brewing company for £435m in the summer.

#### **Buoyant Courts forecasts recovery**

Courts, the department store group, sees "substantial" potential for recovery and expansion in the UK market. It has seen a small like-for-like improvement in results from domestic operations for the second half so far, following a poor first six months of the year. Half-way profits jumped 75 per cent to £8.87m in the six

#### Cassell warns of slow trading

use the Mrs Beeton brand on chilled foods.

COMPA	<u>ny result</u>	<u>S</u>	
Turnover £	Pro-tax £	EPS .	Dividend
137m (124m)	8.87m (5.05m)	20.89p (11.1p)	2.1p (2p)
4.47m (3.45m)	0.27(1) (0.34(11)	15.3p (14p)	4p (3.5p)
44,3m (42.8m)	5.07m (4.15m)	13.88p (11.6p)	2.92p (2.85p)
12.4m (11.0m)	0.50m (-3.28m)	1.8p (-13.7p)	nii (nii)
180 an (132m)	9.22m (6.11m)	3.8p (1p)	nii (nii) .
25.7m (20.9m)	1.75m (1.41m)	6.17p (4.76p)	1.8p (1.71p)
13.3m (12.2m)	. 0.31m (0.56m)	6.79p (1.5p)	1.8p (1.8p)
֡֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜	Turnover £ 137m (124m) 4.47m (3.45m) 44.3m (42.8m) 12.4m (11.5m) 180.m (132m) 25.7m (20.5m)	Tisracites: £ Pre-tax £ 137m (124m) 8.87m (5.05m) 4.47m (3.45m) 0.27m (0.34m) 44.3m (42.8m) 5.07m (4.15m) 12.4m (11.0m) 0.50m (-3.28m) 180.m (132m) 9.22m (6.11m) 25.7m (20.9m) 1.75m (1.41m)	137m (124m) 8.87m (5.05m) 20.88p (11.1p) 4.47m (3.45m) 0.27m (0.34m) 15.3p (14p) 44.3m (42.8m) 5.07m (4.15m) 13.88p (11.8p) 12.4m (11.0m) 0.50m (3.28m) 1.8p (-13.7p) 180.m (132m) 9.22m (5.11m) 3.8p (1p) 25.7m (20.9m) 1.75m (1.41m) 6.17p (4.76p)

#### S&N keeps beer supply contract

months to 1 October, while the interim dividend is lifted 5 per cent to 2.1p.

Difficulties in the UK-book trade have hit the second half at Mrs Beeton cookery book publisher Cassell. Profitability is geared to Christmas trade, but underlying book sale trading is below pre-vious expectations and Cassell said it would not exceed current forecasts. The company added that it expected 1996 to improve on this years's performance, boosted by an exclusive licence to

	COMPA	NY RESULT	S	
	Turnover £	Pro-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Courts (I)	137m (124m)	8.87m (5.05m)	20.86p (11.1p)	2.1p (2p)
Croser Eyeglase (1)	4.47m (3.45m)	0.27m (0.34m)	15.3p (14p)	40 (3.50)
Fuller Smith (T)	44,3m (42.8m)	5.07m (4.15m)	13.89p (11.6p)	2.92p (2.85p)
Leurseuch & Berghett (1)	12.4m (11.0m)	0.50m (-3.28m)	1.8p (-13.7p)	nii (nii)
Respectate (M)	180 m (132m)	9.22m (6.11m)	3.8p (1p)	nii (nii)
Syltoma (I)	25.7m (20.9m)	1.75m (1.41m)	6.17p (4.76p)	1.8p (1.71p)
Join Taxus (1)	13.3m (12.2m)	. 0.31m (0.56m)	6.7 <b>9</b> p (1.5p)	1.8p (1.8p)
(F) - Final (I) - Interiru		12 montes, compe	aratives nine most	jts et

#### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

### Laporte prunes for future growth

pretty uncompromising reaction to Laporte's profits warning. Jim Leng, chief executive since 1 October, and the Electronic chemicals is another businesses. cause of a surge in the share price when his appointment was announced, has

the end of this month, expectations of a promised 10 per cent fall from last year's £123.5m. An £85m provision to cover a far-reaching restructuring will knock a further substantial hole.

This, of course, is another kitchen-sink job, like NFC's earlier this week, which Mr Leng has moved - within nine weeks he has identified the problem arthrowing all the bad news into one announcement as only a new management can afford to do and giving the company a firm base from which to grow earnings in future. The new boss's confidence in that future was confirmed by the promise to maintain the dividend at last year's level.

What Mr Leng proposes for the company also makes eminent sense. He inherited a sprawling ebemicals conglomerate, which included some great businesses but also had a smattering of non-performers, taking up their share of management time and contributing nothing in return. Stripping those out can only be good news for the group as a whole.

What the programme probably means is the closure of 10 of Laporte's 100 sites, smaller ones from which many of the best assets will be saved and moved into continuing operations. Joh losses will be considerably less than the 700 a 10 per cent cut in the oumber of siles might suggest. What really upset the City was the suddenness of the apparent downturn

in trading at the group after an impressive set of interim figures in Sep-

tember. Star performers then included organic specialities, making interme-

diate chemicals for pharmaceuticals and

peroxides for the petrochemicals in-

dustry. That division made impressive

margins of 17 per cent in the first six

Yesterday's 175p fall to 608p was a months and there is no sign that it is level of £107m the shares still stand on gearing, which stood at a heady 750 per

ness that has the capacity to cash in on the booming semiconductor industry. On the face of it the market is right to punish the company. Having expected profits of £140m for the year 10

With those sort of returns from Labave bad to be reworked on the basis porte's good businesses, returning to a growth path should be rather easier than yesterday's share price movement suggests. Shareholders should also take comfort from the speed with eas across the group, decided on a course of action to sort them out and implemented it.

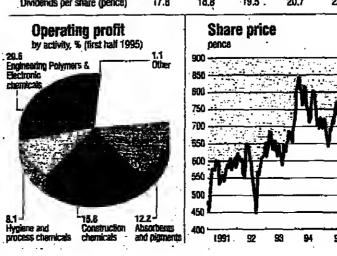
a prospective price/earnings ratio of 15, which explains the need for the size-

able correction. That said, baving got to grips with the problems, Mr Leng bas created a strong floor at the current level. Fairly

#### Ransomes gears down

Ransomes bas been talking about strengthening its halance sheet for months and it was only a matter of time before there was a rights issue. New management had taken this manurplemented it. facturer of grass-cutting equipment off Assuming profits slip back to 1993's the danger list but needed to address

Lapo	orte:	at a g	lance			
Market v	atue: £1.1	7ba, share	ргісе 608р			
Five-year record	1991	1992	1993 Year to January	1994	1995	
Turnover (£m)	649	616	608	893	978	
Pre-tax profits (Sm)	100.3	96.4	86.6	107.4	123.5	
Earnings per share (pence)	44.9	40,0	39.2	41.4	46.1	
Dividends per share (pence)	17.8	18.8	19.5 .	20.7	22.4	
Operating profit by activity, % (first half 1995)		Share price				
29.6 Engineering Polymers & Electronic chemicals	1.1 Other	900		1		



The proceeds from yesterday's onefor-one cash call at 48p - to raise £37.3m - will be used for the usual financial "deck-clearing" including cut-ting debt and a return to the dividend list next year. Quite why sharebolders should think it a good idea to give a company cash so they can hand it back

again taxed is hard to fathom. That said. Ransome's debt-to-equity ratio, 402 per cent currently will fall to a more manageable 59 per cent after

the fund-raising.
Preference shareholders, who are one payment behind, will be getting their outstanding £2.4m in dividends. And the company has reduced its interest hill with Barclays Bank and National Westminster Bank.

All this was yesterday hacked up by a sharp recovery in pre-tax profits. which were up by more than 50 per cent to £9.2m for the year to end-September. No dividend is being paid, hut a 0.5p interim payout for the current year is promised.

Having put the commercial side of the business in order, the management is turning its attention to the consumer operations.

But the time for fire sales is over, and some orderly disposals and cost-cutting over the next year should help drive profits.

Disconcertingly, perhaps, Ransomes may use some of the rights issue capital to go back on the acquisition trail. It was, after all, Ransomes' £95m purchase of an operation in the United States that caused the problems and forced a management shake-up. Investors should be wary of anything but

small "bolt-on" purchases. News of the cash call had no lasting effect on the shares, which closed unchanged at 64p.

With BZW forecasting profits of £13.9m next year, and carnings of 5p, the shares stand on a forward price/earnings ratio of 13. Fairly priced, after a stupendous run, and the rights should be taken up.

# Playing chess against the commandos

**Geoffrey Beattie** discovers that Chris Boardman's switch to professional cycling has been a traumatic experience

A the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 Chris Board-mao did something which no other Britoo had managed to accomplish since 1908: he won an individual cycling gold medal. His victory in the 4,000 metres pursuit came oo his revolutionary bicycle – a carbon-fibre model that virtually eliminates drag. The achievement and the bike, with its high saddle and low handlebars, made a big impression on the

In 1993 Boardman went on to take the world one-hour record, riding 52,270 kilometres in 60 minutes. Theo he turned professional. In his first Tour de France, he woo the prologue time trial, holding the leader's yellow jersey for three days. However, he was forced to retire after 11 days, the victim of inexperience as much as fatigue and the intense heat. This year, in July, he crashed in the prologue time trial going downhill at around 50mph in the wet. He has two screws in his left ankle as a permanent reminder, but the cyclist is now fighting his way back with great resolve and determination.

But what was winning an Olympic gold really like?
"A bit disappointing really, which will be a surprising answer for a lot of people. For 10 years I was aiming towards one thing, and then, in a second, it was all over. It's 'Oh, that's it then. Right'. I didn't get the feeling of elation that I expected would go with

#### The bike played its part. but it was a much smaller part than people gave it credit for

it. I'd seen it on television and I imagined what it would feel like, but it was more of a sensation of shock. It's something that's been enjoyable, retrospectively, over a period of time. It just sort of sinks in, as opposed to being a single moment where you stand on a podium. So I did feel rather cheated if you like, because it just didn't turn out to be like that."

A common image, and certainly my own impression of his Olympic triumph, was of the bike itself -the bit of machinery that had somehow done the trick for him. Was he unduly concerned that many people consider the bike synonymous with that gold?

"Not desperately. There was a lot of hype about the bike, because a lot of the media don't understand cycling - it was easy to jump on the technology side. It became christened The Superbike. It certainly looked the part. We probably wouldn't have got a fifth of the publicity without that hike. The bike played its part, but it was a much smaller part than people gave it credit for. But that was OK by me, hecause in cycling, the Olympic Games, oddly enough, isn't the top. In the world I work in now, of professional cycling, they wouldn't necessarily be able to tell you who'd woo the Olympic pursuit, because in my sport it's just not that hig a deal. The Olympics is always something special, because everyone recognise what it is, So I knew I would be going oo to do other things and if I was good enough, theo the commoo denominator of success would be myself, because I wouldn't always be oo the same hike. The oext year I went oo to break the world hour record, which is the blue riband record - the four-minute mile equivalent in cycling, oo a com-



Riding to greater glory: Chris Boardman on the road to recovery and facing another psychological battle

Photograph: Allsport

pletely different bike. I was the common

I suggested to Boardman that if you asked people which was the most demanding sport of all, they would probably say the marathoo. But professional cycling in, for example, the Tour de France, can be compared with running a marathon every day for three weeks. Did he feel that the public failed to recognise the extreme demands of cycling?

"A marathon goes on for just over two hours and a top marathon runner may run four races a year. A prosional cyclist, on the other hand, will ride on average 90 race days a year. Now, there's no other sport that does anything like that. Up to seven hours a day for three weeks in the case of the Rour de France. There's nothing else like it. I think it's quite barbaric."

Did he have an explanation for why the public, then,

did not seem to appreciate the sport's demanding na-ture? Was it because of the technology involved? "It's very difficult even for me to sit back at home

and watch the sport going on and feel it. You can-oot imagine the pain, the discomfort. You can see it, but you cannot imagine what it feels like. Wheo somebody is climbing a mountain and they look good, it all seems to flow so naturally and it looks like a

very euphoric experience. It doesn't look hard. But when you actually feel what it's like, it's quite a shock to the system. It's difficult for people to relate to. But I would challenge anybody to show me a sport that's as hard as professional cycling."
So then, psychologically what's it really like? How does the professional cyclist remain focused?

"Some of the portions of the race are so long that you cannot physically race flat out for that amount of time. It's just not a physical possibility. Therefore there is a lot of down time within the race. In addition, it's not consistent. It's not, for example, the case that you ride fairly slow for five hours, and then for the last two hours it is really quick. It can happen anywhere in the race - somebody lights the touch paper and theo sets off a series of attacks. Then you

So you have to he ready throughout the race? "Yeah, it's quite a psychological battle, because you can be riding along just having a conversation with somebody, and it flares up. Then you've got to react to it, and it can happen any time. So I would imagine it's a bit like being in a war zooe where you just don't know when yoo're going to get attacked. It's a similar thing."

have to respood to that until it dies down, or not."

This was an interesting metaphor. But how deep was the comparison being made here? If it was really like a war zone, did that mean that afterwards riders could experience a similar kind of trauma?

"No, the trick is to survive. When I entered the professional world, I thought I was going to be surrounded by a lot of highly strung nutters. But when I thought about it afterwards, it was obvious that I was going to be wrong, because to deal with this kind of lifestyle, which is so stressful and so intense, you have to be able to switch off and walk away from it."

Did he have any specific psychological techniques for switching off?

"I've worked with a sports psychologist for a number of years. He played quite a significant role in my winning at the Olympic Games, and in dealing with that amount of pressure. To go back to the Olympics, when you're sitting oo the line, you're thinking There are 176 countries watching this live, and the next four and a half minutes can change my life completely, or oot. That's probably the most pressure that you ever get in life. At least I thought was, until I moved oo further in my career.

Boardman then said something which I found very surprising. "I actually don't like cycling. I am a nat- 8.05pm.

I've chosen for that." Had he always been a natural competitor?

"Sadly, yes." Even as a child? "Sadly, yes. It happened then as well - not to extremes, at least I hope not, but the people around me would be the best people to ask about that. I cycle because I get a tremendous amount of satisfaction from it. People very often confuse 'enjoyment' with 'satisfactioo'. I don't enjoy going out in the rain and training for four hours, but I get a tremendous amount of satisfaction when I get back knowing that I've done that. I enjoy the satisfaction hut I don't enjoy the exercise and it's the same with the sport itself." How difficult was the decision to turn professional?

"It was a case of having no other option, really. There was nothing to lose. The opportunity was there, so I took that opportunity, and for the first couple of months it was very difficult. It was really difficult, it was extremely painful, unpleasant and dangerous. I was riding with 200 of the best blokes in the world and it was extremely being the best blokes in the world and it was uncome to the first order. and it was very much out of the pond and into the sea. I found myself, on occasion, getting left behind on a climh; a hundred guys rode away from me. This was very difficult to accept when I'd been the big fish in the little pond for a while."

And the fact that you were an Olympic champion counted for nothing? "Not in that world. The only on counted for nothing? Not in that words. The only similarity between the amateur and professional sport is that both sets of people ride bikes. The demands are completely different. You have to be a cross between a chess player, a commando and a top athlete."

Finally, we returned to the Tour de France. How

was he getting over his accident? "It was an unusual

#### 'I actually don't like cycling. I'm a natural competitor and cycling is just the medium I have chosen for that'

injury for a cyclist and I fractured my ankle in four or five places. I broke my wrist. That's a major limb in my sport. It meant three weeks of immobilisation and well over two months before I could train. In a way, it was great, it was a really good time off which I needed. It had been very intense for five years, and I think it has been good in career terms to step back from that and take some time out. There is no way that I would have done that, other than by being physically stopped from doing it.

"It was really good to spend time with my family. When I'm with them physically, mentally I'm not oecessarily there - I'm thinking about my sport and what I'm doing. But the family won't hang around and wait until dad's finished, they'll just carry on independently. It's a very big price to pay. Financially, it's rewarding to be a professional cyclist, but its very costly in personal terms. I started to question whether it was worth it, and I'd also started to go through the motions of it being my job. When you start thinking like that, then the need has started to waver. So my enforced time off has been good. I've enjoyed that time and we've used it in different ways, including looking to the future for secu-

rity after cycling."
"I think," he added after a slight pause, "that my career will benefit as a result."

Geoffrey Beattle is professor of psychology at Man-chester University. His series of interviews with lead-ing sports personalities, **Head to Head**, continues with Chris Boardman on Radio 5 Live tomorrow at

#### TOBAY

Football

3.0 unless stated
FA CARLISHERG VASE Third round: Wirterton Rengers y Flaton; Rushell Olympic y Bedlington Terriers; Brigg y Guisborough; Hebburn y
Ourham City, Seaham Red Ster y Belper; Pruchhoe y Duniston FB; North Femily y Eastwood
Harley; Chester-te-Street y Lye; Eastregon Callery y Anster y Nomads; Boddmere St Michaels
y Trafford; Barwell y Mossley; Murton y Selby, Citherice y West Auckland; Thamesmead
y Branwood; Willenhall y Chalfort St Peter;
Whitstable y Precentaven & Telscombe; Titoury
y Aneley; Slade Green y Diss; Northwood y Gorleston; Wwenhoe y Edgware; Raunds y Furness; Carwey Island y Bestford; Hampton y
Coller Row, Taumon y Chippenham; Bndgort
y Windsow & Ebri; Lymingson y Bishop Surton; Whitebawk y Bansched; Buggese Hill y Persnore; Torpoint y Chard (1.30); Paulton
Rovers y Falmouth; Torrington y Chichester;
Hungerlood y Mangorsfield.

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Aylesbury y

Kcis LEAGUE Promier Division: Aylosbury v Worthing Boreham Waod v Walton & Horsham; Bromley v Purifiest Carshalton v Chertery, Grays v Hendon: Hamow Borough v Bishop's Stort-ford; Hinchin v Enfeld; Yungstonian v Dulwich; Molesey v St. Albans: Yeoni v Hayles, Flant Di-Molesey v St Alberts: Yoovil v Hayes. First Di-vision: Barking's Barton; Basingstoke v Rust-ip Manor, Berkhamsted v Aldorshot Town; Heybridge Swits v Abragdon Town; Maden-nead v Balencoy, Mentou v Leyton Pernant; Odond City v Withyeleste: Toolung & Mitcham v Chesham; Urbridge v Tharne; Wernbley v Stantes: Wolangkam v Bognor Regs. Second Olvisions: Braciones v Withjams Chesham, v Hernel Hempstread; Choydon v Eghant; Dori-ong v Metropolinan Police; Saffron Walden v Wage, Third Divisiales; Cours v Common. Feet ng v Moudpoinan Police; Salmon Walden i Mare. Third Division: Cove v Claptor; East Thurock v Ting: Boom & Evell v Lewes: Rock well Heath v Kingsbury; Harefield v Camber

**BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Promier Division** 

Dorchester v Rushdert, Gloucester v Carmanage Cnty, Grester, Rovers v Grouseand, Hasanus v Worcester, Ideaton v Revejour, AFC, Merther Tydfil v Chelmstord, Stafford v Salisbury, sud-bury Town v Mellesowen Town, VS Rugby v Bur-ton. Middland Division: Briston v Pager, Rangows, Bragnoth v Gramburn, Bury Town v Rostinet; Eventerin v Stauthridge, Handley Town v Burdungham Town, Leoester Lid v Moor Green: Redditch v King's Lytri; Solihus Bor-ough v Tamworth; Suton Ocifield v Ninseeton. Southern Divisions Astrond v Bachley, Bran-time v Pooler, Eventerin v Stitunghouse: Setpopumena Denesious Astrond V Bashley, Bran-tree v Pooler, Fareham v Sittingbourne; Pish-er v Tonbridge; Forest Green Rovers v Weymouth; Havant v Canderford; Margate v Fleet; Newport (MW V Clewedon; Warehooville v Troubridge; Weston-super-Mare v Enth &

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDIAND ALLIANCE: Amitage v Hinckley Athletic; Bolehati Swits st Michands Police; Rocester v Halesowe ers; Sandwell Borough v Shilinal; Stapen Okthury; Stratford v Blakeryall. Indicatorta

WINISTONLEAD RENT LEAGUE First Division: Carterbuy v Crethent; Cay Wanderers v Beck-enham: Dertord v Ramagata; Deal : v Shep-pey; Herne Bay v Corinahan; hythe v Faversham. League Cup second round replay: Greenwich Borough v Crockenhal.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Arundel v Eastbourne Town; Larghey Sports v Horstern YAKCA; Culswood v Stans-or; Paghern v Halshum; Portfield v Shomham; Rungmer v Wick; Southwick v Mile Celc; Three Bridges v Hessocies.

MORTHERN COUNTRE EAST LEAGUE Pre-seler Division: Arminorpe Welfare v Sheffield, Arnold v Densby: Ashfield v Pickering, Gasshoughton Welfare v Ossett Town; Goole v Thatley, Matthy v Hudnalir Joseth Albon U Lawsedors: Streichyston v Harfield Man.

#### SECOND DIVISION Today's pools check

3.0 unless stated

1 Bolton v Liverpool . 2 Chelsea v Newcastle ..... 3 Coventry v Blackburn ...

Leeds Littl v Wimbledon ... 6 Middlesbrough v Manchester City 6 Southampton v Arsenal ,.....

#### ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE

8 Birminghern v Watford .. - Chariton v Ipswich... 9 Crystal Palace v Oldham ... 10 Derby v Bamsley .....

Southend v Leicester...

Tottenham v QPR.....

12 Port Vale v Reading

15 Tranmere v Portsmouth. - West Bromwich Albion v Stoke ....

visioner Bleschool Rovers v St Helens: Bootle v Newcastle Town; Charderfon v Holker Old Boys: Derwen v Salfond Coy; Glesson North End v Skelmersdale Utd; Kidsgrove v Prescot; Marne Road v Nortwich; Rossendale Utd v Burscough. JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Promier Divi-

store Caston v Sudbuy Wanderess; Falen-ham v Sohem Town Rangers; Felestowe Town and Port v Tipores; Great Yarmouth v March; Haddeigh v Lowestolt; Holstead v Wrosham; Haddeigh v Comand.

brige v Comard.
MERIEWAND UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Pro-mier Divisions: Desborough v Wooddon Blue Cross: Holbesch v Stortook, Mirfees Blackstone v Stewarts and Lloyde Corby; Newport Pag-nell v Eynesbury; Northampton Spencer v Merriyston; Potton v Boston Town; St Neoc v Stamford; Spalding v Long Buckby; Welling-borough v Cogenhoe.

FEDERATION BRIEWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE Float Division: Crook v Consett: Epole-ton v Tow Low, Ferrytal v Stockom: Penates v RTM Newcastle; Shidon v Whiday; Whick-hern v Billingham Synthona. SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Bangor v Glenavon; Cirfonette v Limitet; Cru-saders v Arts; Portadown v Glentoran, Fiest Division: Ballyclare Contrades v Carnck Rangers; Deddlery v Ballymene; Lame v Col-erante; Ontagn v Newy.

PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brita Rangers v Kerin; Eign City Wick Acad-erry; Fort William v Forres Mechanics; Freser-burgh v Hurshy; Roam Courny v Budea Thistic, Rottes v Cove Rangers, Office Equipment Langue Cup final: Catedonism Thistle v Ross

LOURNY.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Lido v Aberystwyth;
Ceernarkin v Inter Cardif; Ceerses v Bargor
City; Correst's Quey Nomeds v Pint (2.30);
Elbur Vale v Briton Fenry, Holywell v Barry 12.30); Llamest v Newtown (2.30); Llameant-feald v Omness Bay, Porthmadog v Cembran;
Ton Pentre v Bryl.

Rugby League

Rugby Union

DIVISIONAL CHAMPIGNISHED Micland Dw-sion v Northern Dweion (3.0) (at Northgham).

COUNTY CHAMPIONS INP Midlands confined: Warracks by Stationship (3.0) (at

17 Beentfool v Bristol Rovers. 19 Bristol City v Notes County ..... 20 Burnley v Chesterfield ......

SPORTING DIGEST

21 Crewe v Blackpool... 22 Hull City v Carlisle ... 23 Oxford Utd v Swansea ..... 24 Rotherbarn v Swindon ..... 25 Stockport v Shrewsbury

THIRD DIVISION

26 Walsall v York .....

28 Barnet v Bury ... 29 Cambridge Utd v Lincoln..... 30 Cardiff v Hartlegool .... 31 Gillingham v Chester .. Postponed

32 Hereford v Colchester ..... 33 Leyton Orient v Exeter ... 34 Northampton v Torquay .... 35 Plymouth v Wigan ...

36 Preston v Fulham

45 Runcom v Woking..... 46 Slough v Hallfax ..... 47 Stalybridge v Albrincham... 48 Stevenage v Bromagrove ....

Welling v Macclesfield ..... BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

50 Hibernian v Celtic ..... 51. Klimarnock v Falkirk .... 52 Raith Rovers v Hearts .

(2.30) (at Wordester), Northern Group: Cumbria v Cheshire (2.15) (at Worldington); Durhern v Lancestwe (2.15) (at Durhington); Vorleiter v Northumberland (2.15) (at Hull benlars), Southern Group Pool Once Bucknightershire v Dorset & Wike (2.15) (at Ayleeblury). Pool Two: Hertfordshire v Oxfordshire (2.15) (at Herend); Middlester v Hert (2.30) (at Herend); Middlester v Hert (2.30) (at Merchants Taylor's). Pool Flour: Esem Courhes v Surrey (2.30) (at Bury st. Edmunds).

INDER-21 COUNTY CHAMETIONSHEP North-ern Group: Cumbria v Cheshire (2.0) (or Netherlietif: Durhern v (ancastire (2.0) (or Netherlietif: Durhern v (ancastire (2.0) (or Netherlietif: Durhern v (ancastire (2.0) (or Netherlietif: V Buckinghamshire (2.15) (or Maidenhead). Paul Two Somesset v Devon (2.30) (or We-stern-super-Alam). SCOTTISH UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP: Edmburgh v South (2.0) (at Prestonpans); Glas-gow v North & Midlands (2.0) (at Himamock).

IRISH INTER-PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSERP: Lensier v Connacht (2.30) far Lensdowne Road, Dublin't Munster v Eules (2.30) far Mus-grave Park, Carly,

MEMBREN WELSH LEAGUE First Division: Abertillery v Llarieli (2.30); Bridgind v Aber-avon (2.30); Neath v Ebbu Vale (2.30); New-port v Newbridge (2.30); Swarisea v Treorchy (2.30). Second Division: Borrymaen v Len-haran (2.30); Cross Kes v Visradignise (2.30); Duniant v Caerphily (2.30); Llaridovery v South Wales Polce (2.30); Portypool v Maesteg (2.30): Tenby Utd v Abercynon (2.30). TENNENT'S SCOTTISH REGIONAL LEAGUE

Lodge (2.0). East Twer Constorphine v Edin-burgh Academicals (2.0): Duride HSFP v Grangemouth (2.0): Stewar's Melville FP v Kercaldy (2.0): Gordoniera v Henor's FP (2.0). South: Langform v Kelso (2.0): Peebles v Mel-rose (2.0): Sellarik v Hawel, (2.0): Gasta v Jaci-Forest (2.0). Weat: Ayr v West of Scotland (2.0): Gastgow Academicals v Wigsownshire (2.0): Gastgow Southern v Gastgow High-Kolan-sed (2.0): String County v Kilmannock (2.0).

53 Rangers v Partick Thiatie ..... FIRST TEST: Belgum v Great Britain (2.0) (at

BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Bas-ingstoke v Cardiff (6.30); Durham v Notting-ham (6.30); File v Sheffleid (7.15); Newcasile

East Ope: Biggar v Boroughmair (2.0); Ed-nburgh Wanderers v Currie (2.0); Musselburgh

(2.0); Gilagow Soumen's casspair ring mannsed (2.0); Suffang County wikimamok (2.0).

CLUB MATCHES: Barlang y Romfond & Gidea
Park (2.15); Bedford v Richmond (3.0);
Camborne v Badgester (2.30); Cheltenham
v Rugby (2.30); Emery Backheath (3.0); Fylche
v Whaffedde (2.15); Harlequers v Rosslyn Park
(3.0); Licesser v Lindon Welsh (3.0); Lichfield v Stafford (2.30); Liverpool St Helens v
Sale (2.30); Morley v Sheffield (3.0); Morsley v Gloucester (2.0); Newcastle Gostorth v
Leeds (3.0); North Walsham v Lowestoft &
Yambouth (2.15); Rotherparn v Harrogate
(3.0); Numeation v Meroporitism Police (2.30);
Omal v Walsefield (3.0); Preston Grasshoppers
v Manchester (2.15); Reading v Griton
(2.30); Rotherham v Badlangton (2.30); Soucasse v Lardon lash (2.35); Soucasse v Lardon lash (2.35); Shouthough v Barkers Burts (2.30); Wasspil v Widnes (2.15);
Wasspil v Northampton (2.15); Waterdoo v
Nendal (2.15); West Harrispool v Otley (3.0);
Weston-super-Mare v Bermingham Softmal
(3.0); Winnington Park v Northwich (2.30);
Worsester v Learnington (2.30); Cassosited;
Arthument to Strafford

16 Bradford City v Peterborough ..... 38 Scarborough v Darlington... GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE 40 Beth v Kettering ....

41 Dagenham V Dover 42 Famborough v Hednesford ...... 43 Gateshead v Northwich ... 44 Kidderminster v Southbort.

Telforo v Morecembe .....

49 Aberdeen'v Motherwell

ice hockey

vermices of the extension of the control of the con

SANSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA MEN'S NA-TIONAL CUP Fourth round: Birminghern v Leicester (7.30); Crystal Patace v Doncaster (7.30); Darby v London (8.01; Hernel Herrip-steed v Coventry (7.30); Ware v Tharnes Val-ley (8.0); Worthing v Leopards (6.0).

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP Second round: Harlesden v Thames Valley (6.0); Northempton v Oxford (8.0); Solent v Spetthome (6.0); Tyne & Wear Other sports BOXING: British tight-weltenweight trife con-test (York Hell, Bethnal Green, London): Ross Hele (Bristol, holder) v Paul Ryan (Hackney).

TERNIS: European Men's Team Chemponship First Division (Dublin): Great Britain v Ireland (5.0). TOMORROW

Football BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF RELAND Premier Division: Deny City v St Patrick's Athletic (3.15); Shamrock Rovers v Gatway Utd

Rugby League RECAL TROPHY Quarter-Shelts: Leeds v Caristic (3.0); St Helens v Haiffex (3.0); War-rington v Rochdele (3.0). STONES CENTRIANEY CHAMPIONSHIP: London Bronces v Bradford Bulls (3.0) (at Charlon Arhiede FC). First Division: Huddensfield v Whitehavon (3.30); Hull v Devisiony (3.15); Whitehavon (3.30); Joseph Division: Barrow V Leigh (2.30); Chadley V Barriley (3.0); Highledd v York (3.0); Hunsley v Swinton (3.30).

54 Clydebank v Alidine 55 Dumbarton v St Mirrert : 58 St Johnstone v Dundee Utd ....

Brechin City v East Stirlingshire TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP FIRST ROUND -Albion v Deveronvele ... Postno

Playing 16 December - Stenhousemun v Arbitath ..... - Strangaer v Livingston .. Tomorrow.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE Luton v Wolves (2.55)

shire v Devon (2.30) (at Lydicey). Pool Four: Somerset v Cornwell (2.30) (at Bridgweger). UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPTONSHIP North-(2.15) (at Mortevi TENNENT'S SCOTTISH INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Glasgow District v Scotlish Exites (1.30) (at Burnbree, Glasgow); South of Scotland v North & Midlands (2.0) (at Poyn-

HENEREN WELSH LEAGUE Float Divisi

SECOND TEST: Beiglum v Great British (2.0) ice hockey

BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Centiff v Newcastle (6.15); Humberstle v Stough (5.45); Notongham v Miston Keynes (7.30); Shaffeld v Durham (7.0), Plast Division: Billingham v Paistey (5.15); Blacktum v Telibot (6.0); Bracknell v Mannheser (5.15); Durhitis v Chelmstond (5.30); Galiditord v Marnhyshid (5.15); Dentetoner v Albertan (6.70); Califord v Marnhyshid (5.15); Dentetoner v Albertan (6.70); Califord v Marnhyshid

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA MEN'S NA-TIONAL CUP Fourth round: Novcastle v Man-chester (6.0); Sheffield v Chester (6.15).

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA WOMBY'S NA-TIONAL CLIP Second round: lotwich v Lon-don (4.0); Notingham v Marchester (4.0); Wirst v Brmingham (4.0). Other sports

> NUMBER 10m

TODAY'S

The number of dollars (£6.5m) that the the Interna tional Ólympic Committee is to spend on rebuilding wardamaged sports facilities that were built in Sarajevo for the 1984 Winter Olympics.

#### RACING RESULTS

CHELTENHAM

CSF: £10.05. Tno: £9.30. 12.55: 1. CHERYL'S LAD (M A Fitzgerald) 2-1 far; 2. Monstock 5-1; 3. Klino's Cross 8-1, 10 ran, 8, 12. (N Hendeson, Lambourg, Tote: £2.60; £1.60, £1.70, £2.10, DP £6.80. CSF: £11.95. Troast: £60.01. Trio: £33.50. 1.30: 1. STRONG MEDICINE (TJ Murphy)

5-1; 2. File Concord 9-4 for 3. Nutual Trust 13-2. 10 rac. 5, 9, (K Beley, Unper Lem-bourn, 70te: £4.30; £1.30, £1.60, £1.70, DF, £6.00, CSF; £15.49, Trosec £65.13, Tito: £17.20. 2.00: 1. OUR NRRS (M A Fingerald) 3-1; 2. Denging 5-2 for; 3. Nippanour 20-1. 14 rau. 3. shahd. (N Henderson, Lambourn) Totas: 53-70; 51-50, E100, E5-10. DP 54-30. CSP: E10.82. Trice E52.80.

2.35: 1. YORKSHIRE GALE (A P McCov) 3.10: 1. SEVEN YOWERS (P Norm) 8-15 far; 2. Nichle Meseniger 25-1; 2. Cropredy Lad 3-1. 5 ran. 242, dat. (Mrs M Reveley, Settum). Toke: \$1.60; £1.10, £1.60. DF: £5.10. CSF: £9.86.

3.45: 1. BETTER TIMES AHEAD (B Harding) 100-30 for; 2. Wee Windy 4-1; 3. Trickle Lad 6-1, 12 ram, 1/4, 1/2, (G Richards, Geystole), Tota: 6-2.0; £2.20, £2.40, £2.20, £2.40, £2.20, DF. £6.40, CSF: £17.13. Thoss: £73.19. Trio: £27.20. NR: Snic Sign Mover. Quadpot: £57.50. Piacopot: £43.00. Jackpot: £18,967.00. Piaco 6: £20.19. Piaco 5: £14.86.

DONCASTER 12.15: 1. HIGHBANK (G Lise) 5-1; 2. Com-tant Express 16-1; 3. Radi's Pride 7-1. 20 tan. 9-4 Rev Yactr. 9, 11/a. (Mrs. M Reveley, Sattburn). Tote: 54.10; £2.00, £6.70, £3.40. DF: £34.40. CSF: £88.35. Tito:

12.45: 1. MR MORRARIY (G Lee) 6-4 fax, 2. Antartictoru 12-1; 3. Brackentinvaltu 5-1. 11 rau. 6, 1½; C R Bowring, Mans-fed), Totte: £2 10; £2.00, £2.00, £1.40. DF: £11.30, CSP. £20.98. Titorst. £75.79. Trio:

1.15: 1. GO UNIVERSAL (G Bradley)
11-4; 2. Bas de Lains 5-1; 3. Glamot 2-1
fev, 8 ran. 6, 4. (C Brooks, Lambourn). Tota:
23.30; £1.80, £2.70. DF: £6.90. CSF:
£15.32.

£2.10; £1.70, ; £3.40. CSF: £6.50.

Lambourn), Tote: £2.90, DP. £1.90, CSP: £5.89.

2.5% 1. CAMPAIGN (R Durwoody) 5-2; 2. Storm North 11-2; 3. Dials 2-1 lav, 18 rant, 3/2, 7. (M Herrmond, Middlefram), Totes 6AOO; 61.90, 61.90, 61.80, DF: 86-0. CSF: £18.73 Tdo: £8.10. NR: Dork Phoenix. 3.30: 1. MID DAY CHASER (Mr P Scott)

Our Kris has been promoted to 16-1 favourite for the Triumph Hurdle next March after completing a successful dress rehearsal when landing the Million In Mind Novice Hurdle for three-year-olds by three lengths from Danjing at Cheltenham

WOLVERIAMPION 7.00 Conquistajade 7.30 Jigsaw Boy 8.00 Jal-maid 8.30 Kind Of Light 9.00 Hard Love

9.30 Ballymac Girl GOING: Standard.

STALLS: 7f. Im 6f., 2m — ownide; rest — inside.

STALLS: 7f. Im 6f., 2m — ownide; rest — inside.

DEAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6f to Im 4f.

Eliferated, left-hand, own course.

Eliferated, left-hand, own ownide.

Eliferated, left-hand, own own A449 Stafford road. Bus service from Wolverhampton railway station (service from London Euston) Im sway. ADMESSION: Members £15; Grandstand £6.

CAR PARE. Free.

VISORED PRST TIME: Bold Street (7.30).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUINNEES: Allenst (7.30) & El Volador (9.30)
have been sent 184 miles by 9 J O'Sulivan from Bose Green, West

7.00 MEASURE FOR MEASURE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £3,700 added 270 ADLER M Genecho 9 0 \_\_\_\_\_ ERROLINGTON SAY J L Eyre 9 0 \_\_\_\_ ENEME LA VOILE S Williams 9 0... DREAM OF MY LIFE (USA) F Murphy 9 0 \_\_\_\_\_TV O RED RUSTY (USA) (33) O Monts 9 O...

CONQUESTRIADE (USA) (106) S Woods 8 9 Moon (7) 8 IGSSNG GATE (USA) (33) R Charton 89 

7.30 AS YOU LIKE IT HANDICAP (CLASS E) 120002 FOUR OF SPADES (10) (CD) P 0 Brans 4 10 D 4 06002 DEEPLY VALE (23) 61 Moore 4 9 8 \_\_\_\_\_ S Whitworth 10 5 040004 ENCORE MILETY (7) (D) F Lue 4 9 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_ R Lappin 11 6 300000 LEBANCE (7) (C) A Stream 4 9 2 \_\_\_\_\_\_ S D Williams 5 7 351300 DELROS (7) (C) D Haydri Atons 4 9 1.1 \_\_\_\_ P P Alleyby (5) 5 8 06-0200 PRIMERY FREFLY (15) (D) M Correctio 4 9 13 \_\_\_\_\_ Optim 8 960420 DELROS (7) (C) D Haydri Atons 5 8 8 \_\_\_\_\_ A Modition 7 10 053405 HELD HOSSON'S (19) (D) R Bustman 5 8 7 \_\_\_ A Cultum 3 11 4800-06 AL SHAKTI (7) (D) (MP) R O'Sultum 5 8 8 \_\_\_\_\_ D Might 6 12 20035 H ROCK (40) (D) M Correctio 3 8 6 \_\_\_\_\_ J Plending 4 13 055600 BOLD ARRESTOCIONT (15) R Hostigated 4 3.1 \_\_ F Lyoch (7) 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 declared \_\_\_\_

1.45: 1 CELTIC TOWN (I A McCarthy) 2-1; 2. Le Meille 2-1; 3. Young Dubliner 7-4 fav. 4 ran. 24/2, 6. (O Sherwood, Upper yesterday. 8.00 'SOMERFORD CLAIMS' HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 1m 1f 79yds (AW) ARCHERIA (26) C Jemes 3 9 2 \_\_\_\_\_ BENDAMENS LAW (15) (CD) J Picketing 4 9 D...

> 105 1001 MIAMO (25) (C) 8 Michaelon (2) 1 1 1. Newton (2) 5
> 12 660000 QUINCE MARCIN (12) 0 Haydo Jones 7 86 \_\_ D Wright (3) 4
> 13 362315 POLLY PECULAR (90) (D) 8 Snor 4 8 6 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Take 3 METRING: 6-1 Pine Ridge Lad, 7-1 Benjamins Law, 8-1 offices. 8.30 CLAIMS DIRECT' CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 270 7f (AW)

OOGOOO AVENUE FOCH (720 F Marphy 8 9 0 \_\_\_\_\_ T Williams 7 521 DANNISTAR (12) (CD) P D Evens 3 9 13 \_\_\_\_\_ S Sanders 1

9.00 KB (NORTHERN) SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 1m 1f 79yds (AW) 020000 SEA SPOUSE (S1) M Blanstard 4 9 0

-- 13 declared --BETTRIG: 3-1 Old Provence, 6-1 Seresi, Tarten Gen., 7-1 others 9.30 COMEDY OF ERRORS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,000 added 1m 4f (AW)

METTING: \$-2 Ballytone (Srl., 7-2 Nordie Son, 9-2 El Volador, 6-1 others

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### **spor**

# Mysilv the name to remember

Racing RICHARD EDMONDSON

The Champion Hurdle may have lost much of its lustre this week with the injury to Large Action, but it loses nothing in reminiscences around Britain today. Five former winners of the championship will be remembered.

Perhaps the most popular will be the eponymous figure who parades before the Sea Pigeon Handicap Hurdle at Doncaster and then welcomes back the victor into the winners' enclosure. Sea Pigeon captured the 1979 Ebor on the Flat before securing hurdling's crown for the following two seasons. He is still sprightly although rising 26,

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: The Grey Monk (Cheltenham 3.10) NB: Let's Get Lost (Doncaster 1.15)

which, in human terms, is the age

when most people are consigned to the rocking chair. Another winner is recalled in a title in Cheltenham's Bula Hurdie, which sees Morley Street on leg two of his comeback tour. In the following Tripleprint Gold Cup, the chestnut's stable companion, Beech Road, continues to show there is life following near-death, six years after the screens were drawn round him and the rifle cocked in the aftermath of a fall

Even Wolverhampton recalls a former champion during Dunstali Park's Shakespearean evening (which, oddly to relate, does not have an event named after The Winter's Tale). The card closes with the Comedy Of Er-

anywhere today it is almost race as connections did not certainly in the Bula, for which seven go to post, and its iden. After the grey was spared this tity may be female.

With her Festival rivals dropabout both her prospects this afternoon and the shape of her career overall. The mare won the Man meets the ontclassed Well Triumph Hurdle in 1994 and is Briefed, the old gentlemen's still only five and almost cer-club of Docklands Express. still only five and almost cer-

tainly on the upgrade. was fifth when the youngest Cure, who, in trip and going, horse in the race. The four in needs nothing less then the

Danoli, who are already booking their seats in the stands for next March, plus Alderbrook and Fortune And Fame, who are both brought flowers and chocolates as often as they are oats, so much time do they

spend in the infirmary.

Mysilv finished ahead of Atours and Mole Board that day and there is no reason why she should not do so again, following her pleasing reappearance at Cheltenham, where she won in the fastest time on the card.

The Tripleprint Gold Cup does not contain the depth of quality of previous years, but it duality of previous years, but it does feature one of the revelations of the season so far in Charlie Brooks's Couldnt Be Better. The gelding has been raised 10lb for his wade to glory in the Hennessy Gold Cup and was this week reported to be in Cantona-like form, jump-ing and kicking with vitality. He will need to be, as both the distance and going are now dis-similar to those which marked his finest hour. The conditions are more in line with the talents of Easy Buck (Che)tenham 2.35), who won at Newbury 24 hours before Couldnt Be Bet-

ter, again in a good time. Those who hear the epithet "Gordon Richards's dashing grey" today will be confused as to which horse is being identified. The Combrian trainer is represented at Cheltenham by The Grey Monk, perhaps the most exciting novice chaser unveiled this season, while at Haydock the stable's head boy, One Man (Haydock 2.00), turns out for the Tommy Whittle Chase,

One Man, like certain figures in the privatised utilities, has recently done very well for himself without achieving very much. Following a facile seasonal debut success over Jodarors Handicap. mi at Ayr, ne was a success but
If the 1996 winner of the favourite for the Hennessy but
Champion Hurdle is lurking withdrawn on the day of the want to get his hair wet.

opportunity of soiling his lofty reputation, Master Oats let ping like acrosol-attended flies. himself down at Chepstow and Mysilv (Cheltenham 1.55) has One Man was suddenly a mabeen forced up the ante-post jor player in the Gold Cup book and there is much to like ante-post lists.

It would be nice to oppose him this afternoon, hat One Garrison Savannah and Black In last season's Champion she Humour, and Monsieur Le. front were Large Action and Everglades Grand National.

CHELTENHAM

1.55: CHIEF MINISTER, at ease on fast ground and with a furious pace, can cut through the depleted ranks of the Champion Hurdle hopefuls and has-beens here. The front-running Mysilv and Atours both prefer more give. 

2.35: Couldnt Be Better seemed to be so effective against quicker horses on this going. Unguided Missile may also need further, but the uphill finish may exhaust Rasy Buck's stamina. BIG MATT, third to Dublin Flyer here last month, can win this less competitive event. 

3.10: St Mellion Fairway, transferred to David Nicholson from Jim Old, makes his chasing debut but will have to be exceptional to cope with THE GREY MONE.

3.45: Most of these will be ideally smicel by this mip, but not all by the going. Putty Road and STRAW-BERRY ANGEL, whose form behind Chief's Song was boosted last weekend, have the strongest claims but the transatiantic challenger may have more scope to progress after that sighting shot. Romancer should run prominently.

HAYDOCK

The second secon

3. 14 A-1

LOO: EASTHORPE, one of the most promising young chasers around, should take advantage of around, should take advantage of the 13h be receives from Suitton Lane. The seven-year-old has shown his liking for a small field.



1.30: SPARKY GAYLE, friendles in the market at Ayr a month ago, belied the odds in light off the well-handicapped Abbot Of Furness. ed here to beat the consisten Encore Un Peu.

2.00: The presence of ONE MAN should kill this off as a betting contest, especially at these weights. The grey was all the rage for the Hengrey was an unchange up the recur-nessy two weeks ago (withdrawn be-cause of soft ground) after an impressive display at Ayr last month. If any of these are to make a race of it, it will probably be Monstear Le Cure, who will come on for his sixth in the Hennessy but whose stable is badly out of form.

2.30: Gordon Richards puts WIND 2.3% Gordon Richards puts WIND
FORCE over hurdles in an attempt to boost the confidence of
this frustrating type, but his strong
front-running style will have most
of these struggling and, providing
he stays on his feet, he represents
the value here. Aljadeer ran up a
sequence in three weak races at the end of last season and has chances, as do the closely-matched pair of Trump and Great Easeby.



Winning habit: The Grey Monk left Brambleberry and the rest of his rivals in his wake at Ayr last month and his trainer, Photograph: Dan Abraham/Sporting Life

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Race a	posto		2.5	έž	arts.	600	i		-	, -				-		1986	1987

#### HAYDOCK

1.00 Easthorpe 1.30 SPARKY GAYLE (nap)

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUINVERS: C Richards - 31 winners from 106 runners gives a success ratio of 29-2% and a profit to \$1 level stake of \$7.40; M C Pipe - 25 winners, 110 runners, 22.7%, -\$30.30; J C FinaGerald - 12 winners, 46 runners, 26.7%, +\$3.79; N A Twisson-Device - 12 winners, 46 runners, 25.7%, +\$15.36.

ELEADING ROCKEYS: 2 Developed by Twissers, 53 rides, 27%, -\$9.66; M Dwyer - 17 winners, 98 rides, 17.3%, -\$40.61; G Bradley - 10 winners, 97 rides, 27%, +\$24.08; G McCourt - 10 winners, 45 rides, 22-2%, +\$10.89.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATE Kaitak (8.00) won at Westerby on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Well Briefod (2.00) bus been sest 200 rifes by R Buckler from Melphah, Done; UR: And Lond (1.30) sent 215 miles by 2 Ainer from Droop, Dones.

2.30 Wind Force 3.00 Kaltak

3.30 Master Beveled

12.30 HARVEY DEMMY HOSPITALITY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV I) £3,500 added 2m Penalty Value £2,808

1	5-541	DEVERTMENTO (9) (0) (8)   Wood)   Protect 4 11 6	E   backward (3)
2		ARTINORED OLDER M Wattorn M W Easterby 7 11 0	
5	F6-5	BENJAM (23) (4 W Laws 25) PD Sers 511 0	
4	2414-	BRANCHER (217) (Mrs Sylva Blokeley) J Nonce 4 11 0	W Ry
5		COLDREGIL AMERITOR (29) (F J Sainsbury) Mrs A Switch S 11 0	
8		CROWN EQUENTY (Robert Ogder) A Turnel 5 11 0,	FTitley
7		CULTRADA (A.) McDoratti T Calchell & 11 0	
8	0-0	DOMEND PRODUCT (12) OR Hoggest G Richards 5 11 0	LOHER
.9	5/223-	FM A DREAMER (346) (Max M E Routend) Ning M Routend 511 0	Cary Lyon
10		INDEFENCE fixed Limited Mrs J Perren 4 12.0	W Meste
11		PAPARAZZO (Emmet Questor) 6 M Moore 411 0	
12		PERSONANCE (15) (No GS Rees) J Wilton 5 11 0	
13	35-	PURESPALIE (257) (M W Essarby) M W Essarby 4 11 0	
14	0062-	REPORT MAJOR (375) (A M Proof) D McCain 4 11 0	D Water (5)
		- 14 declared -	
100	THUS. F 4	Photography and the state of th	

10-1 Paparamon, 12-1 others 1994: On Ar 6 10 9 M Ragorati 2-7 (N Gassion) 7 ran

1.00 PETROS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £12,000 BBC1 added 2m Penalty Value £8,013 

Minimum weight 10st True handloop engint Circumsor 7st Stb.
Eastforps is also extend in the 1.20 or Circlemburn
SETTING 8-11 Eastforps, 5-2 Political Yower, 4-1 Softme Lune, 16-1 Circumston
1994: Under Emile 9 11 10 M Dwyer 2-5 () FiziGenald 2 con FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Circulation will earn some prize-many simply by complaining the course, but he looks outclassed. Good ground suits EASTHORPE well and he is a game, progressive, sound-purping type with a ten handloop mank despite seven wins over fences in the past 13 months.

He was in sharper condition and need-ling two some when beating Egopt. Mill Prince into
third at Cheltenham in October, but he had to put his best foot toward to measur What's
in toks who went on to win at Nampton. He has not run for 38 days, but it is good when
fresh and looks capable of managing the 4th concession to the consistent Political Tower, who did not get the best of luck in running when second to Rodeo Star at Newcastle
least time. It Eastforpe jumps as he can, he will be hard to pag box. Selfation Laws is a
useful mare at her best, but she draw a blank lest season and her Wetherby second of time
to Belstone Fox offers no obvious encouragement.

1.30 TOTE MULTIBET HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) BBC1 £10,000 added 2nl 4f Penalty Value £7,295 

BETTING: 2-1 Sparty Guyle, 3-1 Northents, 4-1 Horan Counties, Prighest, 9-1 Encore Un Pes, 14-1 LTR And Load, 20-1 San Sanfar 1994: Overlord 5-10-6 M Richards 11-8 (W R Natur 5 ran

14-1 Lift And Load, 20-1 Sen Serier
1994: Overloot 5 10 6 M Richards 11-8 W R Main 5 mn
FORMI GURDS

SPARRY GAYLE is going to make an above everage chases in due course, but it augurs well
for the rest of the season that he should dely 12st in an My handedp a morth ago, coming through to pip Abbot Of Furness. If all his opponents here were in the peak of form.

Sparty Gayle would have a fair bit on his plate, but that is not the case. He won at Ayr despite being a bit bactward, will entry harself off 10st 6b and can be named the progressive member of the field. His chance would be even better if the ground was soft because
the beat Forbidden Time 20 lengths under such conditions at Ayr less familiary, but he could
still be good anough on a course that, like Myr, is fax and galloping. Uff And Load beat
Rabey Dove in Newbury's Beristrite Hurdle in March 1993, but went tame leter in the month
and load might yet have another good race in him. Pridwed was put back over hurdles in
And Load might yet have another good race in him. Pridwed was put back over hurdles in
the peak is still preferred over this distance. He was successful over fences test accord
Un Peak is still preferred over this distance. He was successful over fences test accord
Gayle in the Sun Alhance Novice Hurdle last March. Home Counties, lest season's Counties should even heart for the fished a couple of pleese sheed of Sparry
Gayle in the Sun Alhance Novice Hurdle last March. Home Counties, lest season's Counties should even heart for the sheet of the fished as couple of pleese sheed of Sparry
Gayle in the Sun Alhance Novice Hurdle last March. Home Counties, lest season's Counties should even heart for the sheet for the season of the fished as couple of pleese sheed of Sparry
Gayle in the Sun Alhance Novice Hurdle last March. Home Counties, lest season's Counties and the fished as couple of pleese sheed of Sparry
Gayle in the Sun Alhance Novice Hurdle last March. Home Counties, lest season's Counties should even the counties and 9 half.

Sel

### Lingfield called off

Today's meeting at Lingfield has been called off after falling victim to the Arctic conditions that have hit the south of England this week.

The assistant clerk of the course, Fergus Cameron, said yesterday: "After holding two in-spections the stewards have decided to abandon the meeting.

"There is still snow on the course and, although there was a slight thaw this morning, the temperature has dropped this

Lingfield is the fourth Na-tional Hunt meeting to be lost this season. The following horses are doubly engaged today: Easthorpe (Haydock 1.00, first pref-

erence) (Cheltenham 1.20, second preference); Monsieur Le Cure (Haydock 2.00) (Cheltenham 2.35); Black Humour (Doncaster 1.45) (Haydock 2.00). Horses will appear at their second preference only if the first preference meeting is

2.00	TOMMY WHITTLE CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3m Penalty Value £10,114	BBC1
24163-6	MONSELIR LE CURE (14) (0) Rector H Brown J Edwards 9 11 6	F Titley
	BLACK HEMOLIR (14) (b) (Lacy Lloyd Wesser, C Bross 11 11 2	D Griffagher
	DOCKLANDS EXPRESS (18) (D) (R H Barres, A Bailey 13 11 2	
	GARSISON SAVANNAH (21) (C) (D) (Furnisum Mrs.) Promen 1211 2	
011UF-1	ONE MAN (20) (CD) U Holes) & Richards 7 11 2	
3111431-	WELL BREFED (259) (D) (Peter Jones) R Buckler B 10 12	& Powell
	- G declared -	
	um is also emend in the 2.35 at Cheltenham is also emend in the 1.45 at Doncaster	

Black Humour is also entend in the 1,45 at Donoster
Bit[1982: 4-6 One Main, 6-1 Minutieser Le Corre, Gerrisco Savermain, 7-1 Well Briefed, 10-1 Black
Humour, 12-1 Decidency Express
1864: Cheram) 10 21 2 R Durwoody 11-4 (M Ppo) 3 an
1864: Cheram) 10 21 2 R Durwoody 11-4 (M Ppo) 3 an
1864: Cheram) 10 21 2 R Durwoody 11-4 (M Ppo) 3 an
1869: Cheram) 10 21 2 R Durwoody 11-4 (M Ppo) 3 an
1869: Cheram) 10 21 2 R Durwoody 11-4 (M Ppo) 3 an
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1869: Cheram) 10 21 2 R Durwoody 11-4 (M Ppo) 3 an
1869: Cheram) 10 21 2 R Durwoody 11-4 (M Ppo) 3 an
1869: Cheram) 10 21 2 R Durwoody 11-4 (M Ppo) 11-4 (M Pp

E	2.30	BBC TELEVISION HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) BBC1. £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £3,696
1	RELIFE	WPO PORCE (7) UNG Moreton) G Retains 10 12 0
2	40/111-3	ALBORER (14) (Mess V Foster) M W Fernety 6 11 13M Deput
3	2603-63	TRUMP (12) (Reymont Anderson Green) C Rader 5 11 5 D Parker (3)
4	513/1-06	DISSENCEON DENE CLO GET COA & W WARD J Norton 5 11 5
5	22/P2-3	GRACE CARD (22) IG A Fandon) R Woodhouse 9 11 4 1 O'Hoss
8	435-003	LANDED CENTRY (18) IK W Sail & Son Ltd C Broad 6 11 1 W Marshed
7	3232-52	GREAT EASTEY (12) (D C British W Storey 5 11 0R McCarth (7)
8	532605-	KEEPHERMORIG (271) (TH Cathel) T Cathel 6 10 13
9	F31F-36	UNIO (14) (The Low Rivers (Thoroughbrens) Left 1 Lurgo 4 10 12 T Reed
10	30465	RIVER ISLAND (16) (The What Harte Partiersho) J Cod 7 10 12 C Upton
11	110-113	MOCHERINE DANCER (16) (C) (EF) (P Colourour) Ms M Roveley 5 10 11 6 Califf (7)
12	22310-	BANG IN TROUBLE (259) (Ars 1 R Jougnay ) ) O'Neil 4 to 9
23		COUTURE STOCKINGS (17) Roccure Marketing last J Marche 11 10 7
14		FATHER C'ISREEN (17) (Mrs G Jenkinson) J Edwards 8 10 6
-	TTREE 2.1	Allestone S.4 Durchen Stanislaste 7.4 Torona S.4 Mind Street 46.4 Links Dissipation

Dens, 12-1 others 1954: Seven Towers 5 10 7 P Neven 7-2 (Mrs M Revoley) 12 ran

1994: Seven Towers 5 10 7 P Niven 7-2 (Mrs M Reveley) 12 ran FORM GUIDE.

This might seem a competitive race, but nore of the numers appeals as the type to win here and then go on to derly a penalty, but FATHER O'BREEN stays better than most, has had a run to bring him on and gets in with a noting weight. John Edwards has yet to get his season rating but Father O'Brent can hardly be talmed for fitting to figure on his Chepstow responsione when fitness was at a premium in the the stoley ground. He came clear of a field of 1.3 nowers at Highton (3m) last May and a previous Perth defect of Dron V and Earlymorning Ught was reasonable, as was a second of 20 in a heavy-ground three-miler at Highton. A lins of Sedgefield form from early lost season suggests that Great Easeby and Moornshipo Danoer are closely matched but have a few lengths in hand of Triump, Nevertheless, Trump struck a parch of form subsequently. Like Great Easeby, he needs a bit of driving along, but it is not heard to visualise both of these, plus Moornshipe Danoer, stealing a claim at the firsh. Alfadeer will need to be switched off towards the best to stay the trip, but has a decent cramps if he stays, while Landed Gentry has sometring to prove at the starmer department, but, like Unio and Dispangton Done, is hard to write off in such a Gutaous event.

[	3.00	BEECHES FARM CONDITIONAL JOCKEY HANDICAP HUR- DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 edded 2m Peneity Value £2,274
1	5/15/7	BANK VEN (7) (CD) (Date (Bookstock) Ltd) N Trivier 10 11 11 E Husband
2	174-201	KATOK (7) (D) (C / Murphy) / Carr 4 11 11
3	R02-652	RYAN (3965 (21) IG 6 Bray) A Javes 4 10 12P Morris (3)
4	221-400	GRANDIAN (11) (N's Elect M Milligar) D Mistag 2 10 7 \$ 7aylor (3)
5	P1/652	ENLI NEW CASS & H Daisy N Bycon 5 10 6 D Touler (5)
6	0406115	ANGACE (7) (III) (ISP) The Felis Bourses, Partieranipi 5 Metor 6 10 2
		_ E declared _

Į	3.30	HARVEY DEMMY HOSPITALITY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS 0) (DIV II) £3,500 added 2m Penaity Value £2,808
		MASSER MINELED (8) (D) (Mis E.J Witterns) P.O. Evens 5 11 12
2		ADMIRALS SEAT (783) IS E Shoulest M W Easterby 7 11 0 F Title
3	0	BLA MAN HOMA (395) The Porter Clab: N Triver 4 11 0. W Mercin
	0-0	ETERNAL CRY (15) (R Tyret G Raterts 4 11 0
5	058250	FLOATING LINE (389) (G Love) E Aiston 7 11 0 Toescombe (5
6	. 00-	IMANTY GENERAL (236) E Water C Paries 4 11 0 B Store
7	3-	MACK THE INSTE (282) (D & G Neron) M Poe 6 11 0
8	1	REPLEX HANGER BACKSONER Park Racing VID J Upson 4 11 0 R Suppl
9	0	SHANKVOGH (28) Sean Gehami G M Moore 4 11 0 Callagen
1		SHOTLEY AGAIN U A Swindured N Byene 5 11 0 7 Reco
. 1	1 0630P	AMASTASIA WIREDSOR (35) Mrs Gora Beth O Motest 4 109 D J Motest
. 1		ISHMA PUBBLEDUCK (S) Porcest Record A Street 4 10 9
	3	LAURA LYE (Duncan Heart) B De Harn 5 10 9 8 Upto
B	ETINE 21	- 15 declared - Mack The Xolin, 9-4 Master Reveled, 7-1 Floring Line, 8-1 Admirals Sent, 10-1 Flori

CHELTENHAM

1.20 Front Street (nb) 1.55 Chief Minister

HYPERION 2.35 Big Matt 3.10 The Grey Monk 3.45 Strawberry Angel

GOING: Good.

Left-hand, galloping course with suff fences. Uphill run-in of 240yd

Resecourse is 1m north of cown off A435. Bus link from Cheltenham radway station

Resecourse is 1m north of cown off A435. Bus link from Cheltenham radway station

Rececourse is 1m north of cown off A435. Bus link from Cheltenham radway station

Rececourse is 1m north of cown off A435. Bus link from Cheltenham radway. ADMIS
STON: Club S15 tjuniors, 10-24 years, 5 St; Tattersalis 5 t2: Poster's Enclosure S5.

Check for onlequent migs CAR PARK: Prec.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RINNERS: It Nicholson - 36 winners from 166 runners gives a success ratio of 21.7% abd a profit to x 51 level stake of 510.42, M C Pipe - 33 winners, 254 runners, 12.7%, -587.19; N A Twiston-Davies - 32 winners, 199 runners, 16 lb, +56.53; E C Balley - 22 winners, 85 runners, 25.6%, 53 60 ELEADING JOCKETS: R Davies - 22 winners, 219 rides, 19.7%, +57.38; A Magnive - 26 winners, 182 rides, 14.7%, 457.24; 7 Oaborne - 21 winners, 157 rides, 14.9%, 457.21); N Williamsop - 21 winners, 87 rides, 24.1%, +531.53 winners By LaST SEVEN DAYS: Chopwell Curtains (12.50) won at Wetherby on Samuelos.

enumby. ONG-DISTANCE RENNERS: Chief Minister | 1.35; has been sent 177 miles by Thoma Dyer from invergewrie, Tayade.

12.50 BRISTOL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £12,500 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £8,190 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £8,190

1 23-15R1 CHOPWELL CURTAINS (7) (Durson Diages List M H Esserty 5 11 4 A P McCoy
2 32-01 PORTON (22) (0) IF 5 & W V Robers O Sherwood 5 11 4 Doborne
3 00-411 WISLEY WONDER (158) (C) (Misley Coll Petripeship) in Tuccon-Daves 5 11 2 C Lievellyn
4 SEARNOY CROSS (I H JOURSON) J H Johnson 6 11 0 G Tormby
5 4 DARK STRANGER (168) (Frey Need C Books 4 11 0 G G Tormby
6 2-07 HATCHAM BOY (22) (Robert Benton D Nobusion 5 11 0 G R Demanday
7 1:11112 HT THE CANNAS (25) (6F) Johnson M Nobusion 5 11 0 G R Hodge
8 21 LYMEN YORKHOT (22) (A) Welsen J Gefford 6 11 0 P Hidde
9 PSF3 NOW WE INDOW (7) (R Herbert, T Dossey and M Projes M Sheppard 7 11 D G Mandale
10 3322-1 TAKE THE BUCKSON (22) (D) (Dover F Wiscon T Tocorson Jones 5 11 0 G Mandale
11 0-43 WOODPORD GALE (15) (Ley) Lloyd Webbers N Henderson, 5 11 0 G M A Filiagenia
12 62-22 YAMM (15) WE Serry J Old 5 11 0 M A Filiagenia 12 G C V Wesley Wonder, 4-1 Fondow, 5-1 Lively Knight, 7-1 Chopwell Covtains, 8-1 Hit The Canness, Matchash Soy, Yahmi, 10-1 others
1994; Billygoer Graff 5 11 0 W Marston 100-30 (D Nototson) 9 ran

1.20 GEORGE STEVENS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £6,743 ### A F McCoy

WARTING LIMP (245) (0) (Loc) (My Website 2007)

MARTING LIMP (247) (0)) for & Mis F of Methol 0 Norteion 8 116 \_\_\_R Damwoody

### A F McCoy

WARTING LIMP (247) (00) for & Mis F of Methol 0 Norteion 8 116 \_\_\_R Damwoody

#### A Fingerial

1651-11 FRONT STREET (14) (0) (Mis Lan R Bestop) S Stenood 8 10 3 \_\_\_\_\_ J Octome

#### A Fingerial

221-111 EASTHORPE (36) (CO) Waster Broughton Mes H kinger 7 10 1 \_\_\_\_\_ J F Toley

- S declared -

me is also extend in the 1.00 at Hardbol-ESSIMPLE S-32 Easthorpe, 11-4 Front Street, 3-1 Thombs Up. 7-2 Martin's Lamp, 8-1 Uncle Emile 1994: Current Express 7-10:11 J Osome 100-30 N Henderson: 5 ran

1.55 BONUSPHOTO BULA HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £35,000 added 2m if Penalty Value £21,665 

2.35 TRIPLEPRINT GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 3) £60,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £36,994 

Minimum wearns 10st. True handisae wetents: Bie Mart 9st 12to, Alt For Luck & Gnome's Tystion 9st

Morsicur Lo Cure is also entered in the 2.00 or Haydoci BETTRIC 9-8 Big Mart, 109-30 Doubles the Better, 7-2 Easy Buck, 3-1 Unguided Missile, 14-1 Entered's Pyenne, 15-1 Armtond The Horn, 25-1 Monsicur Lo Cure, 28-1 others 1994: Outlin Pyer 8 10 2 8 Powell 100-30 (Figure) 11 Jun siour Le Curo's intended target is the Tommy Whittle at Haydock but not withdrawing

Modelow Le Cure's intended target is the Tommy Whittle at Haydock but not withdrawing him here means the weights have not had to go up. That leaves Big Matt. 2to out of the handcap, though that is 5th less than he was when staying on into third behind Dublin Hyet and Egypt Mid Prince in the Mackeson here four weeks ago, if he had not hit the last when making ground, he would have firstled closer still. Big Matt had min a lovely trial for the Mackeson algainst Egypt Mid Prince over two miles at Ascot and with those two foces behind him, should be not for this, yet UNGLIDED MESSILE shoulders only 50 more, which is no weight for such a potentially smart horse, even if his form is over a longer trip. Unguided Missile was in fourth place when he came down lour out behind Brief Gale in lists season's Sun Alliance Novoce Chase but went on to frounce the winner at Ayr. He has phready unped round safely here in a maticit has season and a likely strong pace from Easy Bluck should ensure this is a sufficient test of stamma for him. Easy Buck though ensure this is a sufficient test of stamma for him. Easy Buck until he blue with a good exhibition at Newbury 15 days ago and was winning easily until he blue up after the last. He will be sharper for that first since April and his jurping alone gives him a good chance. The likely strong pace will also help Couldint Be Becter, who is droping down in distance after his impressive Hennessy win a lortingfit ago, He is up 10th for that yet won so well that it would not be surprising to see him go close again.

Selection: UNGUIDED MISSILE.

[	3.10	BONUSPRINT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £12,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £8,247
lı	151231	LINDEN'S LOTTO (21) (Crocketts Racing Club) / Wrise 6 11 10
2	5/410P-1	FALMOUTH BAY [18] Liames Morton; 5 Shenicog 6 11 6
3		BD BALLISTIC (1/0) (Mrs. B J Lockran) J O'Shee 6 11 8
4		P Hide
5	0043/1F	PEATSWOOD (9) (Peter Taplin) M Channon 7 11 5
6		ST MELLION FABRWAY (232) (St Mellion Estates Ltd: D Nicholson 6 11 6 R Johnson
7		THE GREY MOREK (16) L'Akstair Duft G Richards 7 11 6
В	61-R425	FOXEROVE (10) (Mrs C W Moderon) R Price 9 11 1

BETTREE: 8-4 The Grey Menk, 4-1 St Mellion Fairway, 8-1 Under's Lotto, 8-1 Fairmenth Bay, 7-1 Go Bellistic, 8-1 Pentswood, 25-1 Fm Toby, 33-1 others 1994: Pashto 7 11 6 R Durwoody 100-30 kH Henderson 7 ran There are some potential stars on show here, none more so than THE GREY MONK, H

There are some potential stars on show here, none more so then THE GREY MONK. He is a nice, bug sort and has done everything asked of him in two runs over fences this season, jumping well and coming home easily each time, albeit in undistinguished company. This stiffer course should hold no lears for him and he is ready for this steb-up in grade. Palabouish Bay is probably better than his scrambled Taunton win suggests, while Go Ballistic, having recovered from one had mistake, came down when challenging and going well with three to jump at Newbury. Peatthwood was also going like a witner when taking lour out at Windsor, while St Mellion Fairway was a decent nowne hurder, but there is nothing like a proven performer and Linden's Lotto should give The Grey Monk at test.

3.45 LONESOME GLORY HURDLE (CLASS B) £15,000 C4 

- 7 declared BETTPR: 5-4 Killione Abbot, 3-1 Pathy Road, 7-2 libber The Kilbber, 10-1 Romancer, 16-1 Cell My Gaest, Strawberry Anglet, 25-1 Nastwille Star
1994: Fetack 5 10 12 S Curran 15-2 (Mess. Jacqueire S Doylet 9 ; an FORM GUIDE

Even shough ground conditions were ideal for Killione Abbet at Newbury on Hennisssy day, he still impressed with his 20-length win. He had won his final race last season by a similar margin and testing conditions might not be as essential for this progressive historier over this more suitable tip. There is no doubt Nitione Abbot has come a long way since finishing behind PUTTY ROAD in the Sun Alliance Noince Hurdle (2m.5) at the Festival in March and there must be a good chance of him luming the lables. Even latthe behind at the Festival were **Call My Guest and Albber The Kibber**. Putty Road, who has behind at the festival were Call My Guest and Albert The Mitheer. Purry Road, who had probably had enough siter a long, hard season, was not able to confirm the form with Call My Guest at Amiree and was having his first run since then when splitting Chief's Sorig and Strawberry Angel over two mithes here 18 days ago. Appel from it being need of, this longer trip will be much more in Putty Road's tawur and, anyway, there was not too much wrong with the form with Chief's Song going on to win test Saturday's big hand-roap hurdle at Sandown. The American horse Lonescone Glory had been an impressive winner at Sandown the day before and his half-scier. Strawberry Angel, also a winner in the States, shaped really well behind Putty Road last mornt. She was outling in some road work in the closure states and londay's early half a mit a well was let a better chance. good work in the closing stages and today's extra half a mile gives her a better chance. Selection: PUTTY ROAD.

\* THE INDEPENDENT **Horse Racing** Results

> 0839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175



### DONCASTER 2

12.10 General Command 12.40 Top Cees 1.15 Let's Get Lost 1.45 Scotton Banks 2.20 Star Rage 2.55 Random Harvest 3.30 Galen

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places on Chare course). Editors: (1904) perrelaped course.

I Leh-hand, perrelaped course.

Rececourse is east of town off the ASS (hill 3 Jets 8 & 4). Bus link from Donaster Central railway station (served by London, King's. Crows). ADMISSION: Club \$14; Grandstand \$8; Family Enclosure 5.3 (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARE: Free.

SIS TACTOR CHARGE

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Black Humour (1.15) has been sent LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Black Humour (1.15) has been sent 167 miles by CP E Brooks from Lambourt, Berkshire; Cohenny Boy (1.45) & Magellan Bay (2.55) sent 167 miles by Mrs J Pimma from Lambourt, Berkshire; Bow's R Gala (12.40) sent 167 miles by W R Mar from Lambourt; Far Sanito (1.45) & Boh Maste (3.30) sent 166 miles by K C Balley from Opper Lambourt; Bastiny Calle (12.40) sent 166 miles by N A Guesier trom Upper Lambourt; Grey Finch 11.15; & Butler's Twitch (12.40) sent 168 miles by O Sherward from Imper Lambourt.

12.10 BURROUGH HBLL LAD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 110yds 

12.40 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPONSOR-SHEP CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS

C) £4,750 added 2m 4f C) 2-4-(-50) Battler 221 47

(1)(01) First Death (259) 57 J Factore 7 120 \_\_\_\_ R Massey (5)

(1)(2)(2) Battler's Terrical (12) (5) O Shareout 9 11.9 \_J A McCarday

221115 DANICHIS DOVE (12) 6 Richards 7 11.4 \_\_\_\_\_ R Harding (3)

53122-1 TOP CESS (7) Min. J Reprodes 5 11.2 \_\_\_\_\_ R Generally

1212-6 CULTEROUT ND (28) (CD) Mis M Review 5 10.13 \_\_\_ P Minor

310/2 SESAME SEED (12) Min. J Cont 7 10.12 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 Keel

403552 HOW'S IT SOM (16) W Min 4 10.10 \_\_\_\_\_ Destroy

10120-00 SEACHWICK MELL (14) W Tester 6 10.8 \_\_\_\_\_ A 5 Smith

3811/87 SHARMASHKA (7) (EF) M H Exclusiv 5 10.4 \_\_\_\_\_ L Wyer

-9 declared

-9 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Sharkerblin, 4-1 Sessons Send, 9-2 Top Coon, 5-1 Cattlerout (Od, 6-1 Fixed Earth, 12-1 others 1.15 RACECOURSE MEDICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)

£2,800 added 2m 110yds 206-1 LET'S GET (DRT (S7) (D) JA Home 6 11.5 P Plane
F BOLD AMESSMENT (15) W S Currington 5 10 12 N Smith
0655-2 GREY FRICH (15) 0 Stremod 6 10 12 JA McCarthy
30 RAZERO A GESS (c) Mos J Horson 5 10 12 Reachty
HENDIN RESK I Kersey 4 10 12 Sates Kersey
48200 BRAD (283) J Norge 5 10 12 E Calegon (7)
West Company ( ROBSERA J Cuant 4 10 12 -

12 SUPPLEME DESIRE & District 7 10 7 P Middley [3]

-12 declared 
BETTING: 7-2 Let's Set Lest, 4-1 Hezerd A Gooss, 5-1 Grey Flock,
8-1 Solomen's Demon, 5-1 Tare Readiler, 10-1 Florand, 12-1 others

1.45 'GAIO' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 2f 4124-4P COSENT (14) (0) J Cover 11 12 0 -Minimum weight 10st. True handical weights: Coloring Boy 9st 10b. Far So-

Back Hamour is also entered in the 200 at Haydrock BETTONS: 6-4 Scottus Beales, 5-2 Columny Boy, 3-1 Black Hamour, 7-1 Cognat, 12-1 Far Serior 2.20 SEA PIGEON HANDICAP HARDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 110yds

-4 Sectores -SETYPHE: 5-4 Star Ragio, 6-4 Thornton Gate, 9-2 Straught, 10-1 Branchie-

255 FRANCES CROSSLAND MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f 110yds 3 SOLDWORS DANCER (25) W Hagt 5 10 12 ..... SPIFEY FINCH'S GEM (SSZ) G Romers 7 11 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ E Harding 0/005- NELHESSAN LINCTION (364) C Thortson 6 11 100 William 

- 9 declared -EETTRIC: 2-1 Random Harvest, 7-2 Spenthent Again, 4-1 Magallan Ray, 5-1 Random Seen, 5-1 Chrise, 10-1 Mony-Skip, 16-1 others 3.30 ROMEO' INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds O APRIL SEVENTH (12) C BORG 4 11 4 G Hoger APRIYSU R Holmsheed 4 11 4 Miss S She BOLD ACTION ) INSTAN 411 4 E Chaingine (7)
553 CATTLY HAVE (200) I Legt 5 11 4 Air W Morgan
4-6 CURRENT MONT (11) M Harmond 4 11 4 Air C Bosner (3) ELECTHYNE M H Easterby 5 11 4 \_\_\_\_ \_9 Femine (5) \_\_\_\_\_U M Res

# Ginola fashions his dream of football

ian Stafford meets the Frenchman whose skills have thrilled St James' Park

e saunters into the room, shrugging his shoulders in apology for his tardiness, cigarette dangling from two fingers, and a headscarf wrapped tightly around his head, hiding all of his dark hair except for a minor explosion bursting out of the back and down his neck.

He looks like he has just finished one of his many modelling assignmeots for Ceruti, and before talking he spends a couple of minutes. browsing through a magazine, pausing at a section of photographs of Elizabeth Hurley. "Hrnm," he mutters approvingly at one photograph hefore flicking over the page. "Oh co, no, co," he then adds, shaking his head dramatically at another pose.

Even before he opens his mouth you do not oeed to be Maigret to work out that David Ginola is French. A Frenchman in Newcastle, of all places, is a man a long way from Paris, and even further from his Mediterranean roots in St Tropez. But Ginola is smiling. In fact, the man seems to be per-

You can feel the energy and the power of the crowd behind you.

The whole ambience is crazy'

manently smiling. For not even he believed that he would have been such an instant hit in a team which has so far dominated the football

"It was a hig decision to leave Paris and come here," he explains. "I was going to leave behind most of my family, my friends, my life and my city. It would not have been such a dilemma for me if I was going to join Milan, or Barcelona, or even a Loodon club like Arsenal, but I knew nothing about the club or the north-east of England.

"Nobody in France could believe it. I tried to explain to them that I chose Newcastle for football reasons, that it was a big challenge for me to try and help a club, who had not won the championship for so long, to finish top, and that I wasn't coming here for the weather or the city.

In fact Ginola was not entirely sure himself. In the past four seasons at Paris St-Germain he had won medals galore, from a championship, to two French cups and a League cup, reached a European semi-final three years in succession, collected a number of caps, and had been voted the 1994 French Player of the Year. Although Kevin Keegan had sent him a video of Newcastle's goals from last season, the £2.5m signing turued up at St James' Park with a great deal of questions needing to he answered.

"I played for the French Under-2I side when we heat England 4-3 in the final of the Toulon tournament," he says, stroking his chin and leaning forward. "Although they had players like Gascoigne, Ro-castle and Thomas in their side, they were very hard and physical, and not very technical.



David Ginola reflects on moving to Newcastle 'for football reasons, to help a club who had not won the championship for so long'

"So when I first came here I Matthews in a French football stronger than they are now. Durthought the defenders would kick magazine. He said that he saw dif-ing this time the more skilful Enthe ball high into the air to the centre-forward, who would then head the ball." He mimics the play from his seat, kicking his foot high in the air, and then watching the "ball" slowly descend until he heads it, putting on a bored expression to emphasise his point. "It didn't put-me off, though, because I wanted to bring my idea of how the game should be played, my inner dream of football, to England."

instead, and this is mightily refreshing to hear, Ginola discovered that his presumption had been wide of the mark.

"I made a hig mistake. It's all changed in the last couple of years. I think Newcastle, Liverpool. Leeds, in fact many of the Premiership clubs, now play a differ-ent game to the English game we are all used to from elsewhere in

"It used to be enough just to be physical and strong, but now the English have become much more technical. As a result, they pass the hall, which is how I like to play my football. I think the English game has learned from foreign players. I was very honoured when I read an interview with Sir Stanley

eigners played in England, because; they always bring a more technical side to the game, and he made a point of mentioning me."

Is that not the point, though? Have English players really im-proved, or is it more the case that players like Gmola, Klinsmann, Bergkamp, Juninho, Gullit and the rest have all made the Pre-

protests. "I play with people like Pe-ter Beardsley, Robert Lee, Les Ferdinand and Warren Barton every the season, when I went for a walk day, and they are all different class in a street with Les Ferdinand," he players. They all understand that says. People kept coming up to Les the difference is not with their to ask him for his autograph, but derstand why he [the manager, strength, but what they can do with nobody wanted mine. They all

appointing show in the European stayed like it was that day with Les. club competitions this year even harder to fathom. Ginola, howey-

er, has a theory about this. . . "I think the problem is no longe

ferent things on the pitch when for- ropeans have beaten them, and now there is much doubt in the English game. When they face a big Euro-pean name, they fear them, I know that when I play against a good team I always respect them, but I never fear them.

There does not seem to be much fear about Newcastle these days, though, riding high in the Pre-miership and the Coca-Cola Cup, miership appear to be outstanding? and feeding the deep honger of a "No, no, this is not true," he passionate following which has protests. "I play with people like Pe-taken Ginola by surprise.

- I retiember at the beginning of thought I was just a friend of his. Well, this is all very encouraging Now it's completely different, and to hear, but it only makes our dis-

> But it is good that so many people live here for the club. There's not much else to do round here for many of them, so the club has be

stand will shout. There is no similarity at all." Neither, so it seems, is there any similarity in the attitude towards Gi-

tertaining and skilful players in Europe, who finds himself, along with a certain Eric Cantona, out of the French international side.

nols, arguably one of the most en-

He first missis it is not a big problem for him. "I don't go home and
cry in front of my son about it," its
said. But then he hamches into the
mystery of his omission. "In Prance
a lot of people say that Ginola
should play, just like they do in England about Ferdinand and Le
Tissier. "Canola amountees, before interession to strangle."

Cup is only two years awar, in my
two years
two year

forgotten over here. On the con- not be normal." trary, I have a better image because. not, it seems, with the manager.

a fantastic player; but maybe the French manager is better than them, non? It is the same with Can-

own country I want to play for France. Here Primer Paiser; patriotic, and I wear the tockers; on

Tissien before pretending to strangle.

I think in the future I will play someone. "Non, um," he adds." again for France, but I don't un laughing and rocking in his seat. I was joking. If I continue to play like made a pop record in the 1970s Aimé Jacquet] won't pick me. I am, and Newcastle win a cup this something about being head over. Maybe he has a personal problem year, then the manager must pick heads in love. "Non," Ginola says, with me. It is not as though I am me for France Otherwise, it would suddenly looking excited. "Really?"

He believes his stock has risen Newcastle are doing so well, but because of his move to England. The French people respect me more when I am in England, than when I'm back home in France It's After France played Israel last when I'm back home in France It's month the Israeli manager said the same with Cantona. He's been

abroad, people say that you are great. But when Cantona made some trouble, then everyone at home said he's a shit. You don't have respect in France. But in Newcastle, you're recognised as something great."

something great.

Ginola might well have carried on with this theme had not four year-old Andrea suddenly emerged, jumping on to his father's lay and being smothered in kisses and cuddles. It reminded him of something else.

"That is my only problem here," he said. "It is very hard for my wife, because she has no friends yet, and spends all her time on the phone to injends backin Paris. She doesn't know what to do with herself here.

I am OK, because I take my boy

in selfited every morning in Jes-mond, and then go and train with the team, but it has been very difficult for Coraline. I am building a house in the south of France, and when that is finished she will live there for four months each year. I think then she will be happy to come to Newcastle."

He then changes the tone to an upleat mode. They, but it's a small problem. I like playing for New castle, and I like the playing. We are always laughing and joking to-gether and Kevin Keegan has told me that they all like me, not the

'In France a lot of people say Ginola should play, like they do in England about Ferdinand and Le Tissier'

player, but the man inside. I am not above them or apart, but one of the group. I am very happy to bear

Andrea is desperate to go to the todet, so there is just time to raise the one cribeism levelled at Ginoia in some quarters - the Johnny Foreigner always dives accusation.
He answers by lifting up his trouser legs to reveal a collection of cuts,

grates and bruses. It is the same after every match, he said.

Defendent give the more attention, enjectably after a couple were sont off after fourist me. They them, man? It is the same wair Can-were sout after found me. They tona. We should both be in the don't like it when I keep running team; but the manager disagrees. past them, and sometimes, when his the European Champa-they can't get the ball off me, they constine this cases, and the World-kink me down. But that's OK, I encup is only two years away, in my joy making a spectacle on the joy making a spectacle on the pitch. Off haspitch too if his model-

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trade A. Arm

7.45

ling shoots and catwait strais are anything to go by. I only do that because Ceruti specifically ask me, but I am always first a footballer," he replies. Anyway, I saw a pho-to of a fashion shoot with Kevin Keegan in his office, so he is the

same."

I tell bito that his manager once He bursts out laughing. "I will ask him to sing it to me tomorrow."

And with that he leaps up, still chuckling to himself, and takes his now red in the face boy by the hand. "What was the name of the

### **Christie** looks past **Arbroath**

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Second Division Stenhousemuir take on Arbroath in the first round of the Tennent's Scottish Cup today hoping to embark upon another campaign of giantkilling.

A year ago they knocked out Aberdeco and St Johnstone on their way to the quarter-finals. And this season have already won the Challenge Cup. However, as their manager, Terry Christic, recognises last year's success puts pressure on them. "But we are looking forward to the competition and hope to create a good impression." he said.

Although at full-strength, Stenhousemuir have a difficult opener. Arbroath have strengthened their squad from last year with John Crawford, Steve Florence and Steve McCormick.

Glasgow University and Spartans, have fought through qualifying sections to reach this stage. The Spartans manager, Sam Lynch, said: "Both of us want to progress and meet East Fife in the next round.

Strangaer wait on the fitness of Steve Kerrigan and Darren Henderson as they meet Third Division leaders Livingston, who will be without their Barbadian keeper Horace Stout.

Albion's game against Deveronvale is postponed because of a frozen pitch.

### Forest confronted by the Klinsmann factor

Immovable object meets irresistible force in the struggle for a place in the last four of the Uefa Cup next year, yesterday's quarter-final draw having pitted Nottingham Forest's unyielding defence against Jürgen Klinsmann and the free-scoring Bayern Munich attack ern Munich attack.

Forest, Britain's sole survivors

striking prowess. The former Tottenham player, for whom the second leg next March will be his beat Malmo there to win the Eufirst appearance in England since he left in May, has already amassed 11 goals in this season's man opposition, as well as overcompetition, including scoring twice in Bayern's away legs against Benfica, Raith Rovers and Lokomotiv Moscow.

1979, with current manager Frank Clark at left-back, they coming Hamburg in Madrid to

wich knocked them out two seasons back. In Bavaria, Forest will be without the suspended Colin Cooper, who might well have marked the man Clark acknowledged as both main attraction and chief threat.

retain the premier prize in 1980.

Clark now finds himself in a world-class, and when he came battle of wits with Franz Beckto Spurs he surprised a lot of

2-1 in Malmo in September. Bayers, in contrast, have advanced on the strength of Klinsmann's contest for Forest. In against whom he failed to score last season, with Wimbledon. "They play the old British

style with lots of high crosses into the box," he said. "They'll be a tough nut to crack." Elsewhere in the Uefa Cop. Barcelona collide with PSV Eindhoven, conquerors of Leeds. Bordeaux, who survived while

in Europe, have not conceded a goal in five matches since losing first leg against Benfica in the enbauer, Bayern's technical dipeople," he said. "We're oot Monaco, Auxerre and Lyon fell goal in five matches since losing first leg against Benfica in the rector, and Otto Rehhagel, the frightened of him, but Bayern to English clubs, tackle Milan.

portivo La Contra. Glasgow's Ibrox Stadium is under consideration as venue for the Cup-Winners' Cup final on 8 May, with the European Cup final likely to be in Rome.

CUP IIIIAI INECTY to DE IN KOME.

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS CIP Quarter-direct
office. Dynamo Moscow v Rapid Viennet, Parris
2 Paris St. Germain, Deportor to La Countie v Rapid
2 Paris St. Germain, Deportor to La Countie v Rapid
2 Paris St. Bornasia Mitchenglachecht v Payanord. (Ties to be played 7 and 19 March).

UEFA CUP Quarter-final draw: Barodone v PSV
Endhovert, Salani Pragez v Rome; Milan v Borcheux: Bayem Murich v Notkinghum Forest. (Ties
to be played 5 and 19 March).

### **English** women fly the flag

It is not often that Graham Kelly, chief executive of the Football Association, astonishes the world of football, but today will be the exception.

For at 4pm, the FA's contri-bution to a 24-hour round-the-

world football extravaganza will kick off at Highbury, but the players it has chosen to repre-sent England will be women. "The Day the World Played

Football" is part of the United Nations' 50th anniversary celebrations. All national associations belonging to Fifa were invited to designate matches in each of the 24 time zones to create a 24-hour ribbon of football matches occurring simultaneously around the world.

Most matches will be men-

only games, but, Kelly nominated an Arsenal versus Liverpool women's match to emphasise the FA's commitment to the development of women's football, which it took over from the Women's Foot-ball Association two years ago.

The women's game is experiencing strong growth in England, as seen by the performance of our international team in reaching the quarter finals of this summer's Women's World Cup, and I am sure that the two teams will provide an entertaining spectacle to match the occasion," Kelly said.

### If Mick McCarthy is English just because he was born here then Cliff Richard is Indian and the Duke of Wellington Irish

**FAN'S EYE VIEW** 

We've had some great moments in the last few years following the boys in green. Think of David O'Leary's spot-kick against Romania in Italia 90 or Ray Houghton's winning goals against England in Euro 38 and Italy at USA 94. What do these players have in common? Well, neither was born in Ireland. "You're really only England B." I was told by the bloke in the pub last summer.
"I've got an Irish Wolfhound;
does that make me eligible to
play for Ireland?" he asked under the illusion that 1 hadn't

a gobshite," you'll hear two of "wha' a tossah". Try telling any of the blokes with London accents that they're not Irish in spite of the green jerseys and you'll get pretty short shrift. Try telling them that the Britishborn children of Irish immigrants shouldn't be playing for Ireland and you'll get the same

parental qualification rules for players more than most (or even all) other countries. Ireland has been haemorrhaging have won the World Cup in people for 150 years and of all 1986 if we had not generously

No 127 Republic of Ireland GERARD HASSETT

to move to Preston to get paid It is true that Ireland uses for playing football.

for playing football.

Anyway, think of all the players we could have picked but didn't. Would Argentins have won the World Cup in 1986 if we had not generously overlooked the sweeper Jorge Brown's Irish grandmother? Brossbly not, but since FAI of Saries, who were born in Singapore. Australia and Jamaica

also an Irish international, had Lawrenson's granny so that he could play for us it would have been a bit greedy to go for Jorge

suade the South African-born of Wellington was Irish. But as Row Wesserle to ioin up as well. the Duke himself said, if you're Roy Wegerle to join up as well. If only he had succeeded then he could have gone to the 1990 World Cup with a team made of players from every continent on Earth except America. Not that I want to point the finger at any-

Of course Ireland uses the fact that half the world has an Irish grantry to gather as many good players as possible for our cal for the novelty of watching from the sofa. I know we will it has a wealthy Premier be going for all-out attack and League. I don't see much of a a high-scoring win - once we

born in a stable does it make you a horse? As for Wednesday, I'll be back in the pub watching on

satellite even though the game is on terrestrial TV for once. Even Chariton Athletic get on telly here more often than Charlton's Ireland and I'm not It is not where you're born but how you feel that gives you your nationality. If Mick Mc-Carthy is English just because he was born here then Cless der the illusion that I hadn't heard the joke 83 times before.

Walk into any pub in Shepherd's Bush on Wednesday and, when Tony Cascarino miss. Carthy is English just because for every shout of "Jayzus, what I reland just because his dad,"

1950 it we nad not generously overlooked the sweeper Jorge Brown's Irish grundmother? Bucher, Tony Dorigo and John Barnes, who were born in Singapore, Australia and Jamaica respectively. Bobby Robson was for every shout of "Jayzus, what I reland just because his dad,"

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1950 it we nad not generously overlooked the sweeper Jorge Brown's Irish grundmother? Bucher, Tony Dorigo and John Barnes, who were born in Singapore, Australia and Jamaica respectively. Bobby Robson was even reported as trying to per-

nedicate a komunication de

# Sky begins to fall in

Phil Shaw previews a crucial weekend for some key figures in the Premiership

on Atkinson

Ron Atkinson is fond of saying man for a club record £2.5m yes-that he is the best five-a-side terday, but had to settle for borplayer at Coventry, even at 56. If true, it may explain why his team go into today's match against Blackburn as the Premiership's bottom club.

Like Aston Villa in his final months there, Coventry have forgotten how to win. There are lies, damned lies and footbail statistics, but whichever way Atkinson's recent record is examined, it does not augur well for the Sky Blues' prospects of seeing in what would be a remarkable 30th successive season in the top division. His troubles began soon af-

ter Villa reached the Coca-Cola Cup final last year. Out of 55 League matches since then - a sequence interrupted by his sacking at Villa - Atkinson has presided over 31 defeats and just 10 victories. Coventry's most recent win came back in August.

In the circumstances, a visit by the resurgent champions is not a fixture he would have chosen. Blackburn arrive hot from a 4-1 win in the European Cup - witnessed by Atkinson in his role as TV pundit - whereas Coventry start with 36 goals in their "against" column.

When Alan Shearer and Mike Newell score hat-tricks, as they have in the past week, they end up on the winning side. Dion Dublin's treble at Sbeffield Wednesday on Monday, which gave the Coventry the lead three times in a 4-3 reverse, meant he had hit seven goals in six games without that satisfaction.

Coventry revealed this week that they are £9m in debt and paying £8,000 a week in inter-

rowing Chris Whyte, 34, from Birmingham for a month.

At the other end of the table, Newcastle play at Chelsea boping that the 3-3 scrape at Wimbledon does not herald another dismal December. This month last year they won only one in five to scupper their title challenge. and they should find Chelsea fortified by a draw at Manchester United as well as a seasonal outbreak of goodwill between Matthew Harding and

the suitably hirsute Ken Bates. Manchester United have another bome match, against Sheffield Wednesday, in which to rediscover their rhythm, though for once City are the city's form side. Having taken 13 points out of 15, Alan Ball's team meet Middlesbrough in a contest likely to turn on the wiles of two pocket dynamos, Juninbo and Georgi Kinkladze

Bolton are in the relegation zone and Liverpool in the up-per reaches, yet defeat for the visitors at Burnden Park would plunge Anfield into the greater crisis. Seven games without a win means, by their own stan-dards, that Liverpool are in one already. Scott Sellars makes his Bolton debut after signing from Newcastle, while Roy Evans gives a first appearance of the season to Nigel Clough. Meanwhile, Villa, where an

alleged surfeit of veterans contributed to Atkinson's demise, expect to field one of the youngest sides in their history at Nottingham Forest tomorrow. Brian Little's team is like est charges. Atkinson was still able to contemplate signing with lan Taylor, 27, closest to collecting his bus-pass.



Backhand complement: Yevgeny Kafelnikov drives past Jacco Eltingh in the Grand Slam Cup in Munich yesterday

### Kafelnikov keeps huge prize in his sights

There will be a new champion at the Grand Slam Cup to claim the biggest cash prize in tennis. The semi-final line-up emerged yesterday when Yevgeny Kafelnikov rallied to beat Jacco Eltingh 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 and he will face Goran Ivanisevic. Kafelnikov and the other semifinalists are guaranteed \$431,250 (£287,500) while the winner of the tournament will collect \$1.625m (£1.083m).

a point

to prove

A 16-year career has not left Al-

ton Byrd with much to prove,

but he still intends taking every

opportunity to embarrass the

His next chance comes

tonight when Byrd puts his Ra-

dio Five American sports show into the background to come

out of retirement again and lead

Crystal Palace against the Don-

caster Panthers in the Nation-

Palace are still smarting from

being rejected by the Budweis-

er League for the current season.

despite winning the First Division

championship last spring. Palace

are top of that competition again

following an impressive win last weekend at their closest chal-

lenges, Coventry Crusaders.
"That was our best perfor-

mance of the season" Byrd said,

"but tonight is our biggest game

of the season. We've tried to play

friendlies against Budweiser

clubs this season, but none of

them seem to want to take the

risk. Tonight is our big chance to

Palace have seven players with Budweiser experience and will be

able to add their second foreign

player, the 6ft 9in Canadian

Eric Johnson. First Division

games allow only one foreigner
-a slot Palace usually fill with the

show where we should be."

Budweiser League.

al Cup quarter-finals.

Basketball

In the second semi-final 10day, Boris Becker plays Todd Martin, who also reached this stage last year. None of the four semi-finalists has won the richest tournament in the world. which offers prize-money of \$6m (£4m) to 16 participants with the best records from the four Grand Slam events in a year - the Australian, French and US Opens, and Wimble-

four for the third time in his career on a walkover when the the ATP World Championship

world No1. Pete Sampras, withdrew on Thursday with an inflamed knee. Sampras, who won the inaugural tournament in 1990, had been the only former champion still in contention.

With the departure of Sampras, Becker is the highestranked semi-finalist, and the German seems favourite to take the title. Already one of the most successful players on indoor surfaces, the No 4 ranked Beck-Ivanisevic reached the last er bas recovered his winning touch in recent weeks. He won

in Frankfuri last month and has looked impressive on the fast surface in Munich's Okmoje Hall. "I usually had my best per-

formances in Frankfurt the last couple of years - reaching the final last year, winning it three years ago, winning it again a couple of weeks ago. It's the first time I kept my form over the two-week time off I had be-tween Frankfurt and Munich." Becker said, "I guess it's because of my serve. I don't remember ever serving like I've been do-ing the last three to four weeks."

the quarter-finals when he was struck by 17 Becker aces, "I feel like on both serves I'm able to hit aces on all four corners, and that's very helpful. It puts the other guy under a lot of pressure." Becker said.

He said Munich's altitude makes the balls travel faster and gives him an advantage, while other players might be having problems adjusting to the con-ditions. "I live here. I practice every day here, so I'm used to that kind of playing."

### **Olympic** goal in mind for **Britain**

sport

Hockey

BILL COLWILL

Great Britain's two Tests in Brussels this weekend against Belgium, at the start of their rapid build-up programme for next month's tough Olympic qualifying tournament in Barcelona, are going to he challenging for all concerned and in particular for Howard Hoskin and John Shaw - fighting for the remaining place in the squad.

For the coach, David Whitaker, the decision is not easy. Does he go for Southgate's experienced Shaw with 194 international appearances behind him or for Reading's exciting, aggressive Hoskin with just two recent caps against Argentina?

The object in Barcelona is to avoid the bottom three places in the eight nations round-robin. That will ensure a ticket to Atlanta and Shaw is likely to get the nod. But for the Olympies, where the first three places are those that really matter. Hoskin looks the stronger bet.

Julian Halls, who missed the

recent games against Argentina following a double hernia operation, made a successful return to his club Old Loughtonians last weekend and is back in the international frame. With his World Cup full-hack colleague, Phil McGuire, on the injury list, the hard-tackling Halls can be expected to line up with either Reading's Jon Wyatt or Southgate's Soma Singh alongside him. Teddington's Jason Laslett has been appointed cap-

Lastert, has been appointed cap-tain for the two games.

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD to Belgium, Brus-sele, today and tomorrow from S Mason, I Hoeldn, J Wyatt (all Reading, D Luckes East Ginesead), J Halls, N Thompson (both Og Loughtonens), J Lastert (Fedingare, cpt), Soma Singh, J Shew from Southeast, S Ha-zint, G Fordham, R Thompson (all Hourstow), D Hall (Guidford), R Garcia (Polo Bertelona), C Giles (Havand), C Møyer, Kalbir Takher (brth Geocch).

Quotes of the week

If he goes to Wolves I hope

they get relegated. Steve Walsh, Leicester City's captain,

is less than happy with Mark

cult to talk about loyalty.

Martin George, the Leicester

chairman, is stunned by losing

### Hauge threatened by permanent Fifa ban

Rune Hauge, the Norwegian agent at the centre of the bung" dispute which cost George Graham his job at Arsenal, is facing a complete ban and loss of his licence from Fifa, world football's governing body,

on Monday. Hauge will be questioned about his involvement in the Lars Bohinen transfer from Nottingham Forest to Blackburn Rovers and the move of Pontus: Kamark to Leicester City from Swedish club Gothenburg.

Fifa's control committee will decide on the penalty at a special meeting in Paris on Monday and informed sources revealed that Hauge, who is already suspended for one year, will have his licence revoked completely their ultimate punishment.

Officials at Fifa have investigated the Bohinen and Karmark transfers and feel there is sufficient evidence to suggest Hauge was involved, although the deals were officially carried out by a licensed Danish agent.

Bristol City have launched an urgent appeal for a major backer to help keep them in business. They made a loss of nearly £800,000 when relegated from:

a week since. Directors are de ciding whether to seek support for a share issue.

Jamie Redknapp, the Liver-pool midfield player, will be withdrawn from the England squad for next Tuesday's international against Portugal af-ter failing a fitness test on his hamstring injury yesterday. Manchester City have ended

their attempts to sign the Spanish international Thomas Christiansen. The club first tried to sign the player nearly a month ago but talks foundered on Christiansen's wage demands. The talks were reopened, but now City have lost patience and decided against the move.

Morten Wieghorst, the Danish international utility player, has joined Celtic from Dundee who receive £500,000 plus the defender Barry Smith.

Duncan Ferguson, whose 12-match ban was lifted at least temporarily this week, will be in the Everton squad for Monday's Premiership game against West Ham. Following the Scot's two-goal performance in a reserve game against Newcastle on Thursday night, Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said yesterday: "We now know Duncan is ready to come in in an emer-£810,000 when relegated from gency and I have pencilled him the First Division last season and into the squad."

#### Byrd has Wigan poised for cup progress and Nick Fozzard in contention. but are still without Garry Scho-

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

former were the masters of knock-out rugby and the latter the apstart pretenders.

The balance of power has swung now to an extent where it would be a massive upset if Naughton Park in the Regal

The Chemics surrendered an eight-month unbeaten home and is poised to start a first match for the first time.

Their new signing. record to Featherstone last week and they are without the injured David Ruane and Andy Collier today, as well as Adrian Hadley, who has "resigned" from the club.

Wigan are without England's World Cup full-back, Kris Radlinski, with Jason Robinson Widnes versus Wigan in a cup moving from the wing and Rob Smythe, 18, coming in, but the tie still carries echoes of an era, odds are heavily on them conlast six visits.

St Helens will not be too worried about facing Halifax with Danny Arnold at full-back, in place of the injured Steve Prescott, Arnold, 19, impressed Widnes were to win at after coming on as a substitute against Workington last week and is poised to start a first team

Their new signing. Paul Newlove, is cup-tied for this round, but Scott Gibbs returns from injury and Vila Matautia from suspension to make Saints look a solid bet for the semis. Warrington have a long injury

list which is delaying final se-lection, but should still be good enough to beat Rochdale. Greg Mackey, Warrington's debut to Richard Henure, from

targeted the Australian as player-coach after failing to persuade Oldham's coach, Andy Goodway, to leave Watersheddings. Mackey, set to return Down Under next week after four years with Warrington. said: "I have been asked to apply for the job and would be tempted by the challenge."

Defeat for Rochdale would

leave Leeds bidding to become Yorkshire's one representative in the semi-tinals, provided they do nothing slack or silly against Second Division Cartisle. Leeds have Kevin Iro back Odsal last week.

unlikely, is to move events sched-

uled for the Georgia Interna-

tional Horse Park near Convers

in suburban Atlanta from 21 July

to 4 Aug next year out of Geor-

gia. Although it seems increas-

whether the competition would

be moved to another venue

ingly unlikely, it was unclear

veteran scrum-half, is wanted by Hawkes Bay Unicoms, recom-Paris to spearhead their Super mended to them by their former McGhee's departure. Leeds's Dean. Henare, a wing or centre with a prolific try-coring record

field. Carlisle could give a rapid

in New Zealand, will have a run with the Alliance team today and could come straight into the first learn tomorrow. Another Kiwi, the stand-off,

Tane Manihera, should be tit after missing Carlisle's deleat - their first in 13 matches - at Bramley last week.

out until the new year with a five-match suspension for el- | trian, but that was one of the howing an opponent's head at

#### his manager. What about that Atherton innings? Was it the key to saving the day? The ever-incisive Charles Colvile, BSkyB presenter, puts the question to Raymond Illingworth after Mike

Atherton batted for 645 minutes

to save the second Test. Oldham's Ian Sherratt will be This is difficult for a York shireman to say to a Lancasgreat innings of all time. #lingworth on Atherton.

Atherton's innings was one Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, agrees with Illingworth. Putting South Africa in was the wrong decision and I felt I probably owed the lads an innings after that. Atherton in his

He batted as if his life depended on it. Atherton on Jack Russell's part.

It's something the player himself will have to look at because it's happening too many times. The Rangers manager, Walter Smith, begins to weary of Paul Gascoigne after he was sent off

against Borussia Dortmund. A few of our players have never seen snow before and many of them have not expenenced playing in 30f. Bryan Williams, the Western Samoa Huddersfield.

Thirty seconds of pain. What Buster Mathis Jnr, Mike Tyson's next opponent, can expect acpartner Nate Tubbs.

### Tick spells trouble for Olympics

Equestrianism

travel, horses may have trouble getting to the Atlanta Olympics next summer.

Officials of the Atlanta Games, the International Equestrian Federation and the Euronean Union met vesterday to reconcile the fears of the American state of Georgia, of which Atlanta is the capital. Georgian officials are worried about a horse epidemic if European horses compete in the Games. Following yesterday's fact-

Nigerian Soloman Ayinla.
The tie of the round, though, finding meeting a decision on could be London Towers visit to how to cope with the issue Derby Storm. The holders. could be announced in Atlanta either late next week or the Sheffield Sharks, are at home week after, according to an to Chester Jets tomorrow while inconsistent Thames Valley American official who attend-Tigers visit another First Divied the conference. "It has been a productive sion club. Ware Rebels, tonight.

meeting. We heard all of the concerns and there could be a final decision in a week," said For animals seemingly made for the official, who requested anonymity. He refused to provide details.

> The decision could have a major impact on the Olympic equestrian events next Summer. "It's a very difficult issue," said Murielle Faenza, of the International Equestrian Federation. The problem is equine piro-

plasmosis - a tick-borne parasitic blood disorder that infects horse and causes fever. swelling and, often, death, Faenza said some European horses carry the disease, which Georgia has tried to eradicate by banning horses found to carry it. Some Georgia officials oppose lifting the restriction to allow horses testing positive for the disease compete. One alternative, increasingly

within the United States or out of the country entirely. International equestrian officials point out that excentions to disease bans have been granted in the past and hope a

similar solution could be found. Although the disease used to kill horses in the United States. it has not been a problem for years. An epidemic in Georgia in the 1960s forced authorities to kill many horses to contain the disease. Such memories force Georgia state officials to he especially careful.

Olympic organisers already

have streamlined procedures to test horses arriving for the Games. Tests were conducted last summer in Atlanta to make sure incoming horses could be tested as quickly as possible. There have been similar

problems before. For the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, a temporary waiver was approved despite the threat of piroplasmosis. But the more humid Georgia climate is better suited for the ticks that transmit the disease, making that alternative more problematic.

At the 1992 Games in Barcelona, quarantine problems affected the equestrian coach, feels the cold in events. Only once before have local animal control laws forced the equestrian events out of the host country, in 1956. Australian laws lorced the compe- cording to Tyson's sparring union to held in Stockholm.

### Dave Hadfield selects some of the publications dedicated to rugby league that will satisfy the enthusiast St George's fallen dragons and other heroes

The major publishing event of the game's centenary year should bave been Geoffrey Moorhouse's A People's Game - The Official History of Rugby League 1895-1995 (Hodder and Stoughton £20).

It seemed to have everything going for it: unparalleled access to the game's archives and the undivided attention of a writer indisputably out of the First Division. And yet it has fallen uncomfortably between two sets of goalposts. In was unrealistic to expect a bigger version of At the George - one of the best books on the game ever writ-

ten - although I would happi-

ly have settled for that.

dictably well-written, it does not winning team, for instance, but of the game here than in a hun- with Michael O'Hare (Loncontain enough of Moor-house's own vision of the game the St George to satisfy. Conversely, it is not the definitive history of the game which is needed. And, for £20, we should have had a book of coffee-table-bending weight, like the Australian equivalents. considerably more lavishly illustrated than this one.

The best rugby league book of the year is far more specific: Never Before, Never Again by Larry Writer (MacMillan Australia, £22.95 from Sportspages]. It is not an original idea to take a celebrated side and follow the lives of its players after The trouble with A People's the glory fades. It was applied most vivid fashion. There is London, Touch and Go by

sides that won the Sydney Premiership every year from 1956

to 1966 - a record unmatched by anyone, even Wigan - are made for the treatment. Their subse-

quent fortunes encompass everything from Thompson's compelling Born wealth and public office to the gutter, and Writer draws out all the personalities involved in the

Game is that, although it is pre- the 1966 England World Cup- more of the authentic flavour. Dave Farrar and Peter Lush Books for Christmas dred official histories. Worthy

> ings include Trevor De lancy's lasci-International Grounds of Rughy League (self-published. £15.95), Cec

on the Wrong Side (Pentland Press, £14.99) and an admirable history of professional rugby in

It has been a productive year in New Zealand, too, particu-British offerlarly for Dean Bell. His Power League, with Richard Becht (Aurum, £14.95) is a superfily illustrated guide to the technating The niques of the game, while

Ultimate Warrior, also with Becht (Gollancz, £15,99), is infinitely more revealing than the average sports hiography - especially on the subject of John Durahy's turbulent season at Wigan. It is a shame it was written too soon to include Bell's own first experience of coaching at Leeds, which would be worth a new chapter in itself.

don League Publications, £9).

One of his players there has put his name to Garry Schofield's Rughy League Masterpieces, with Neil Hanson (Sidgwick and Jackson, £20). This is a comprehensive anthology of writing on the game. and undoubtedly worth any league nut's attention. There will be some writers like myself pleasantly surprised to have had their doodlings reclassified as masterpieces, hut Garry Schofield's Rugby League Potboilers would not sound half as good. Also recommended: A New Bread Rising by Ruhard Beart (Haroer Sports, £14.95 from Open Rugby); Buff Berry and the Mighry Bongers by Michael Latham White RL Publications, £9.95; James Laythen's Dilary by Iom Matther (self-published, £9.99; Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook (Headine, £16.99).

is suspended. Newcastle expect to be Coventry v Blackburn Coventry give new defender Whyte a debut as Williams and Shaw are suspended. Blackburn's full-back Kenna s on international duty so Le Saux I back, Bohinen and Batty are also in-sound along with McKinlay, Fenton and new Swedish striker Gudmundsson.

Leeds v Wimbledon Pemberton is expected to return to the Leeds defence as replacement for Kelly who is required by the Republic of ty who is required by the Republic to Ireland. Speed (ankle) may return to Ireland. Speed (ankle) may return to midfield, Ford is expected to make way. Wirthdedon are Welly to be without their 1,600,000 recent signing Pearce. The centre-back has a back injury so exes is poised to deputise. ster Utd v Sheffield Wed Republic of Ireland full back Irwin is out of United side missing Schmielchel and Palister (injunes) plus Butt and Kenne (Supenental)

Isuspension). Giggs may return. Wednesday defender Nicol might play

Sellars makes his Bolton debut following of 2750,000 move from Newcastle to replace Thompson, who starts a three international Sheridan after a lines intoly, lish manager Charlton has match suspension. Skipper Patterson returns after rightly, Liverpool could give. Clough and Norwegan international Sheridan after a lines intoly, lish manager Charlton has given tim permission to play. Middlesbrough y Manachestar City Middlesbrough y Manachestar City and advanced out, lish this disconsist their first will in eight matches. Red-irrapp (harrstring) is ruled out, lish this with starts three match temponal duty.

Choisea v Newcastle

Phelan may make much-delayed de-irrapp out of the process of the red match. Philips out of make his de-phelan may make much-delayed de-irrapp out of the process of the red match. Philips out of make his de-phelan may make much-delayed de-irrapp out of the process of the red match.

Team news

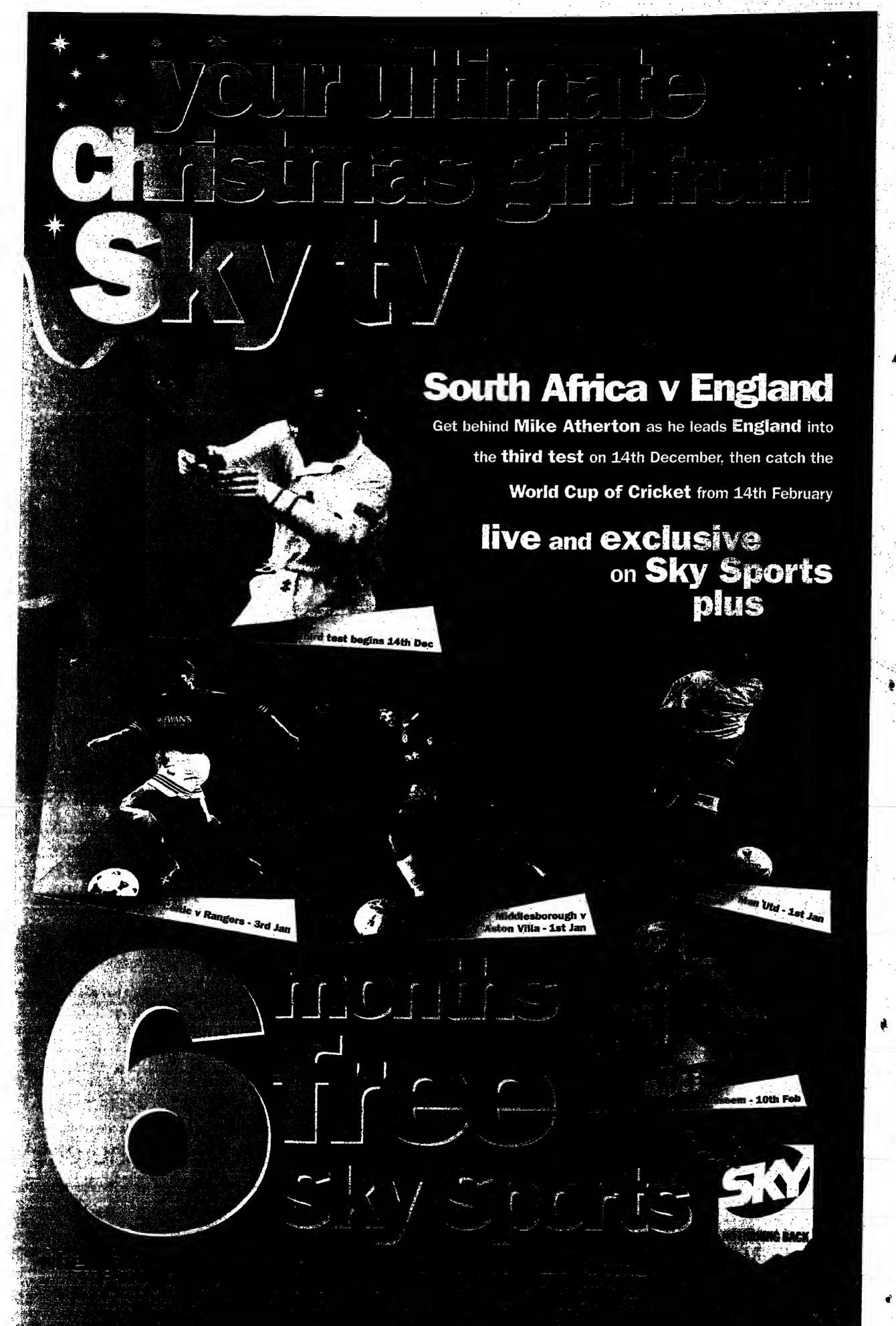
Phelan may make much-delayed de-but for Chelses following his £900,000 is added to squad. move from Manchester City but Gulfit Southampton v. is still out injured and desender Johnson Sairts have striker Wal is acceding square.

South amptor v Arsenal

Sanits have striker Watson and midfielders Matidison and Therapy challenging for places. Wernen, Cranton and
Bennett are the men-under threat. Arserial will be without Berglamp and Helder but Keown returns to the squad after injury. Tottenham v CPR

Campbell is set to switch to right-back for Texterhain In place of suspended. Austr. Wilson slots in at left-back. Hateley and Ballen speamed the Rangers arck as Ducho starts a three-match ban. Defender Ready is also serving a one-match suspension so Bardsley or Maddix may be recalled.

TOMORROW Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa Former Arsenal striker Campbell (back) Former Arisenal striker Campbel (acci) could return to the Forest attack: Roy is still recovering from an operation. We ta, without their linsh trio of McGrath, Staution and Townsend, hope that midfielder Paylor (hamsting) will be fit to play. Famely stands by to deputise white Science a gots a rare first team opportunity in defence.



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صكاف الاعل

### Is this what our national sporting expectation has become? That a celebratory sigh of relief is released the moment we didn't get tonked

Tomorrow night, at about 9.30, the most predictable moment of the You can be all the more confident which have quickened the national pulse have both been the execution sporting calendar will take place: Frank Bruno will be named BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Des Lynam will tell us Frank descries a in the poll: Damon Hill, who knighthood, Harry Carpenter will be brought out of retirement for the occasion, the sportsmen sitting in the background in their Hugo Boss three-piece suits, will look uncomfortable at the ensuing flurry of

know what I mean, 'arry's. Although it seems scarcely credble as his avuncular presence has been one of the show's constants over the past 15 years, this will be the first time Bruno has landed the gong. Few could begrudge him his moment in the uplands of national sporting affection, however, if only for the perseverance with which he has gone

in the prediction that Sir Francis (as he likes to style himself) will be the winner when you look at his rivals couldn't beat the Germans in a race for the pool; Stephen Hendry, world champion in a game virtually unplayed outside Britain; or Jonathan Edwards, winner of the hop, skip and jump world title, an event, until he performed his mighty leap in Stockholm, most of us foodly assumed came in the athletic schedule somewhere between the sack race and the

4x40m potato and spoon relay. It makes you wonder if 1995 has been a uniquely bad year for British sport or whether the choice we are offered is a telling indication of our relative international decline. Indeed this week, the two sporting moments

of dogged, backs-to-the-wall, against-the-odds, draws: Michael Atherton and Nottingham Forest. The metaphor most frequently seized upon in the press to link the two has been that they are lads you would want oext to you in trench. Is this what our national sporting expectation has become? That a celchratory sigh of relief is released the moment, for once, we didn't get tonked! What next, dancing in the street if we manage to scrape a draw against Chad? Io truth, as a quick scan of the previous winner's list reveals, the Sports Personality of the Year should not be taken as an adequate barometer of the British sporting scenc. Apart from the surprising number of winners who you assumed would be disqualified from

Jim White



ON SATURDAY

consideration due to the word personality appearing in the title - Nick Faldo, Steve Davis, Nigel Mansell (twice) - the vast majority of the winners are from sports where you are on your own: runners, boxers, rac-

Curry, Robin Cousins and Torvill and Dean have all scooped the thing. And how many other British skaters can you name?

It seems astonishing that only three team players - Bobby Moore in 1966, Ian Botham in 1981 and Paul Gascoigne in 1990 - have held aloft the venerable trophy with its three-lensed television camera statuette. No rugby players have been close, and rugby's duck is unlikely to end this year as Will Carling could not even rely on votes in his own household.

Team players are, clearly, dis-criminated against since they are part of a collective effort, hence the

ing drivers. Perform well in figure skating, for instance, and you are almost certain to win the award. John roster of viable individuals to nommate: Matt Le Tissier (after all, this is one competition for places in which Terry Venables's vote counts for no more than the man in the pub's), Alan Shearer (if Mansell can win it...); or David Seaman (perfect, as long as he didn't let the trophy balloon comically over his head

during the presentation). Football, though, is always at a disadvantage in supplying candidates. Moore and Gazza both won for their efforts for England in the World ing which unites the nation. In all other circumstances tribal loyalties come into play. Jürgen Klinsmann, for instance, clearly the football personality of last decision in 1960 to cominate a season, is not going to garner too Sports Review Teom of the Year. But many votes outside the white

But, it occurred to me watching the television on Monday night, that the Football Association has at last woken up to its glaring under-representation in the country's premier sporting award and is grooming a candidate to unite the game. There he was, looking as if he had lost an enormous amount of weight for the role, telling us how he was making venerable institution more fanfriendly, even, once, smiling. In fact, did we not detect an extra personality-style bounce in his tone as

Cup."
Yes, step forward football's choice as Sports Personality of the Year

he uttered those famous words

whose origins are lost in the mists of time: "And that completes the

draw for the third round of the FA

# Gallagher's green light for Quins

Rugby Union STEVE BALE

John Gallagher, the former All Black full-back and now a prospective Irish international, will make his debut for Harlequins this afternoon after being graciously permitted by the Rugby Football Union to play in non-league and cup matches.

Yesterday's RFU executive decision frees 10 former rugby league players, of whom Gallagher - Loodon-born of Irish parentage - is comfortably the most distinguished, to return to union forthwith, though the constraints of the RFU moratorium continue to keep them out of anything meaningful, The RFU has already prevented Gallagher from playing in the County Championship for Kent.

Among the others to be semi-reinstated are two England players, Peter Williams, Nigel Heslop and one England A man. Martin Strett, all of whom will play for their former union club, Orrell. But the moratorium, which is continuing all the old regulations at club level until the end of the season, will

With the Irish RFU having gladly accepted Gallagher on the bench for Irish Exiles and the Welsh having no problem with the full reintegration of Jonathan Davies, the RFU would have looked foolish in the extreme if they had failed to act. As it is, the contrast in the policies of different unions does nothing for the repute of the nolonger-amateur game, especially in England.

Indeed Gallagher, 31, has already turned out in a match under WRU auspices, last month's leuan Evans testimonial, making today's against Rosslyn Park at The Stoop his second since returning to his original code af-

ter five years in rugby league. Gallagher afready has credible representative ambitions but the standard of rughy to which he will for now be restricted will scarcely be conducive to their realisation. Next Saturday, for instance, Quins have a pre-international match against the Royal Navy.

Martina Ertl, of Germany, won

the opening giant slalom of the women's Alpine skiing sea-

son at Val d'Isère yesterday, but

fell nine points short of taking

The 22-year-old German all-

rounder, who won the season's

first super-G last week in Vail.

Colorado, resisted the chal-

lenge of Mojca Suhadole, of

the overall World Cup lead.

Having tried every other form of preparation, psychological and physical, the England team will undergo visioo testing at their Richmond hotel next Thursday, 48 hours before they meet Western Samoa at Twickenham. Amoog the faculties to be assessed are hand/eye coordination, response reaction time and peripheral vision, none of which was in perfect working order in last mooth's defeat by South Africa.

The Samoans will field as near to their Test-strength side, including 13 of those who drew with Scotland, as possible in tonight's game against the South-West at Gloucester. George Leaupepe - one of the horde of players from all parts of the globe who are said to be about to join Gallagher at The Stoop - is absent with a knee injury, allowing Kaisa Tuiga-mala (a distant relation of Va'aiga, another All Black who went to rugby league) to play at centre, and Mark Birtwistle is preferred to Potu Leavasa at

The two unbeaten divisions Midlands and North, meet at Nottingham in the decider for the CIS trophy. The North are disappointed that Neil Ashurst - the Sale flanker whom they have been pushing for higher honours - has withdrawn through injury and indignant that Joho Fowler, also of Sale, should have withdrawn for

"husiness" reasons. "I would have hoped that the honour of playing for the North would have been enough to enable him to make himself available." Dave Stubbs, the North coach, grumbled. Fowler's supposed demands had apparently almost caused his withdrawal from the North's notable defeat of Samoa on Tuesday.

SOUTH-WEST: P Hall - Bristol, capu; N Beel (North-Impton), A Turner (Easter), S Erock (Portypand), P Helford (Goucester); R District, S Helford (Goucester); R District, S Helford, J Pearson (Bristo), G Helford, J Pearson (Bristo), S Helford, S Helford, J Pearson (Bristo), S Helford, S

(Briston),
WESTERN SAMOAL H V Putu (Vaaku; B Umm
(Marst), T Veugin (Te Atatu), K Tulgamalin,
(Scopa), A Tolesia (Petrore); II Kelledi, (Por-soritor, J Filema (Wednyou); M Mins (Oc-co Umaersty), O Martanian (Mooto'a), P Futbalofa (Mcrudou), L Felenaline (Marst),
Birtoriatie (Suburbs), S Kalata (Porsoriby),
P Lam (cops), S Validate (Marst).

Skwenia, and Alexandra Meiss-

nitzer, of Austria, who came sec-

Entl earned her second vic-

tory of the season, and the fifth of her career, with a com-

bined time of 1min 54.44sec on

the tcy French piste, raising her

World Cup tally to 251 points. However, her compatriot Kat-

ja Seizinger produced a strong

second leg to finish sixth and re-

tain the overall World Cup lead

ood and third respectively.

Test of character: Looks and Personality, without key personnel, lock oars in the Cambridge University Boat Race trial yesterday

### Strength of Personality gains the upper hand

Rowing **HUGH MATHESON** 

Beef was off the menu at the Cambridge University Boat Race trial vesterday thanks to cold germs, not BSE hysteria, as Personality beat Looks by one and a half lengths in 17.01sec. The crews had near perfect winter conditions for a race which medicine, but has not yet found the No 6 seat to replace Ethan had struck in the first minute.

incidentally the Boat Club's only postgraduates, was missing and the order, once it was established, never looked like being changed. Nick Burfitt, who retired two

years ago after a long career in and changed their personnel taken the race by the scruff of the British team, has appeared only minutes before the race the neck and lifted the crews oul at Cambridge, at 28, to read when Christian Brun moved into of the comfortable groove they

demonstrated the excellence of a cure for the common cold. His Ayer, who had succumbed to the their coaching and preparation. power and experience under But the power of two key men, pressure will be a vital asset when the universities race for the Beefeater Trophy next April, but his absence disrupt-

ed the line up of Personality.

same bug as Burfitt. The result of these absences

was a fine display of British-born undergraduate racing with four under-23 world champions on show, but the missing ingredi-Looks too had their problems enl was anyone who could have taken the race by the scruff of

ed two strokes to the minute above Looks at about 34 throughout, raising it to 35 at the end. However, Looks never lost their poise and kept the deficit to less than a half a length of open water, while never looking likely to come back to win.

CAMERIDGE UNIVERSITY BONT DACE TRIALS: Looks by Personality 17,01sec, 14/2L

Sea Welfingboungh and Frally (480, 4, 1) D Passed Hampton and Homeston), 5: 5 J Dawson (Bow-ing Mark Cartisbuy and Magalahen), 6: 0 J Cas-silay (Sineyadury and Timing Holl), 7: J F E Ball (Maga Drester and Robinson), Stoleas FAM Wallon (Emman) and Downing); Cone K Wityman (King's

#### Knight digs in to steady England A Warren puts security at ers made life difficult by swing-ing the ball significantly during have started on time. succession, much depended on Knight. He looked as if he the forefront England A 102-4 v Pakistan A Knight, who made a duck in

The promoter Frank Warren has increased security at York Hall, Bethnal Green for tonight's challenge by London's Paul Ryan

wealth light-welterweight championships of Bristol's Ross Hale. The move follows a board inquiry into the riot in Glasgow in October and their recommendation that uniformed po-

lice should be present whenever it is considered necessary. Hale is recowned for his ferocious starts. Ryan is best known for his streogth, but has been working hard on his speed

and co-ordination too. Although Rvan is unbeaten and has nine stoppages to his credit, Hale is confident he can remain No1 in the World Boxing Organisation rankings ahead of Ryan, the No 2: "I can't sec this one going the distance," he said. "There is a lot at stake for both of us, and it's going to be explosive. It's been frustrating waiting for a world title chance. Three times it's fallen through. I've just got to keep on winning and my chance will come."

Play began 90 minutes late, to the amazement of England's Nick Knight held England A's players because the ground adinnings together in Peshawar ministrator ruled that the pitch yesterday during a truncated first day's play in the third "Test". The Warwickshire openwas too damp and had oot been fully prepared hecause of yesterday's rain. But, with the er made 55 out of England A's 102 for 4 as the Pakistani scam-

with 3 for 44.

ing the ball significantly during the afternoon.

sizeable score, especially be-cause of the 153 his Test rival Jason Gallian had made there Yesterday Gallian fell for 16 and, when Nasser Hussain and sun shiniog, the England crick-eters rightly felt that any first-Grath then departed in quick

would see out the day before be last week's second Test in was beaten by a well pitched-up Rawalpindi, was in oeed of a delivery from the seamer Shahid Nazir.

Dominic Ostler and Jason Pooley made it to the close, which came 45 minutes early because of bad light, and they both face having to make significant contributions today.

### Sri Lanka 251 v Australia

Shane Warne moved within sight of 200 Test wickets yesterday as Sri Lanka were dismissed for 251 on the first day of the first Test against Australia in Perth.

The leg-spinner overcame the handicap of several niggling injuries to claim three Sri Lankan wickets and lift his haul to 198 in only his 42nd Test.

Sri Lanka elected to bat after winning the toss. They batted positively and aggressively but lost wickets at regular intervals to lose momentum whenever they appeared poised to dominate. Australia's fast bowlers shared

win against Pakistan, also dis-missed Aravinda de Silva and Chamioda Vaas. McGrath made the early inroads by dismissing Asanka Gurusinha, Arjuna Ranatunga aod Chandika Hathurusinghe.

Australia made three changes

ishing with figures of 4 for 81 and

Craig McDermott, who wrapped up the innings two balls before

the scheduled close by howling

Kumur Dharmasena, ended with

icant intervection when he re-

moved Romesh Kaluwitharana,

Sri Lanka's top scorer, for 50.

The leg-spinner, who took 19

wickets in Australia's 2-1 series

Warne made his most signif-

Sri Lanka pay price for aggression the remaining seven wickets to full, with Gleon McGrath fin- and final Test against Pakistan on and final Test against Pakistan on Monday, drafting in batsmen

> bowler Brendon Julian.

Stuart Law and Ricky Ponting for their Test debuts, and pace

### Kiwis lose advantage

New Zealand 98-3

Honours were even aftera a fascinating first day's play in New Zealand's one-off Test against Pakistan in Christchurch yesterday. Thirteen wickets fell and 306 runs were scored in a fascinating day's play.

New Zealand's openers cautiously made their way to 48 in response to Pakistan's 208 before Bryan Young edged Ata-ur-Rehman to wicketkeeper Rashid Latif for 16. Fellow opener Craig Spearman was denied a half-century on his debut wheo Mushtaq Ahmed got revenge for being straight-driven for six by him in his first over.

He slipped a leg-hreak be-tween bat and pad to hit off-stump and end Spearman's

measured innings of 40. The celebrated duo of Wasim Akram and Wagar Younis largely wasted the new ball, aiming more at the batsmen's heads than their stumps. Several half volleys were driven to the fence.

New Zealand earlier looked to have blown the advantage of winning the toss when they bowled badly on a good wicket and openers Aamir Sohail and Ramiz Raja put on 135 in even time. Much of the credit for the recovery went to seamer Chris Cairns, who finished with 4 for 51.

TEST MATCH (Christobusch, 208 (Aamir Schail 88, Rema 4-51); New Zealand 96-3.

#### Basketball

Bass Returns

Bardean Clubs' Championship Senificial series (Tharsday): Group at Bayer Leverhusen 76 (Mer standur): Group at Bayer Leverhusen 76 (Mer standur): 70, Arches (Ar) 97

Chronalos 85, Tenno (17) 21 CSKA Moscow
97, Group 85 Paul-Orace (Fr) 94 Resi Madrid
75, Boloytra 95 Paul-Orace (Fr) 94 Resi Madrid
75, Boloytra 95 Paul-Orace (Fr) 94 Resi Madrid
75, Boloytra 95 Ascoult (Fr) 94 Resi Madrid
75, Boloytra 95 Ascoult (Fr) 94 Resi Madrid
112 Los Angeles Clopiers 103, Berner 124

Usin 1139, Porther 95 Tourith 88; Defror 93

Vancoustr 84.

The Australian all-rounder Shane Lee has confirmed that he has signed a one-year contract to play for Somerset next summer. Lee, 22, has scored times centunes in 21 tirst-class games for his state side. New South Wales, and has best boxing figures of 4 for 20. He will re-place the Pakestan keg-spraner Nush-tag Ahmed, who is likely to be selected

CASTLE CLP (First day of four): Bloom-forthelms Free State 362 for 2 (G F ) Lecter-burg 1; Ono, W J Crome 116) v Natal. East London: Border 173 (M W Pangle 4-30, C

Ertl makes early running

Robert Lee, the Newcastle United and England midfielder, has won November's Carling Player of the Month award, it is the second time Lee has won the Pay-er of the Month award, after being named as the panel's choice in Sep-

The Aberdeen midfielder, Stephen Glass, has ended speculation over his future by signing a new two-and-a-half-year contract. The talented teenager had attracted attention from both Nottangham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur after his impressive display in the Dons' Coce-Cola Cup final win against Dundee

Coca-Cola Cup imai win against Connect last month.

TRANSFERS: Leigh Jenidmion (Ioward) Coverby to St. Johnstone; Teary Philipsidis (forward) Burnley to Cardini Care, Peter Bendle (forward) Watford to Breath Rovers, Teary Pleaning (defender) Preston to Lincoln, David D'Aurin immidialets) Scarborough to Scuthfore; John Robertson (defender) Water Wigen to Lincoln.

LOAN TRANSFERS: Gory Bleasts (created With-bledon to Nycomber, Aldes Newbouse Forward) Windbledon to Forcas, John Kamwerthy Veneral Irjannere to Christic Creig Milegley fromard Pardon Christic Creig Milegley fromard Pardon Christic Carlo Malegley Tonard Pardon Christic Machine (Malegley Malegley Malegley) Milestonell manifelder Edector in Professional Milestonel Milesto

Mitchell Immifielder, Blochool in Rochale, Mitchell Hamle Idelender Nithaul in Bury, REAMBURGER FORTRESS, Endafaigh Langum First Division Sept 23 Dec Solve Chyl Shefheld Used International 20 Dec. That Is June Chylas Palace v Immunes Roses, from 2 Sept), Basenst Divisions Wed 10 Jans Stockooft County of Brail Hamle Sheff Sheff Roothers guarant-final; Safe 5 Jans Carbole v Burnley, from 9 Jans.

THURSDAYS LAST RESULTS: Usin Cop thirst round second lags South Propie 0 Midar 0 Midan sur 240 on aggregate). Peride Langue Photonial 951 lattic extra temps Slovia Propie on 1-0 on aggregates. Perides Langue Riset Bibliotes Siona Cry 3 Nacregium Frest. 3: Elemin Shirwazado O. Second Braing Hamle Shirwazado O. Second Braing Shire and Robert Braing Hamle O. Second Braing Shire and Alban Rovers, scheduted for Saturday 16 December, has been post-poned because Albion will be now playing Deveronvale in a Tennent's Scottish Cup first-round be, which will not be played today due to bad weather.

today due to bad weather.

GOIF

DANTO OPEN (Tokyo) Landing second-round source Uniconess raises stated: 135 8 Naturalists (S. 135 8 Naturalists) (G. 68, 137 5 Man & 69; F. Mirota IPan & 7; I. 139 M. Naturalist & 7; I. 140; F. Mirota IPan & 70; T. Naturalist & 77; I. 15ughera 66 73, VETHAM & 699; (M. Cal New) Cap II Leveling second-round scenera 132 C. Devert (IS) 66 66, 133 B. Ruangin (Ina) 69 69, 137 D. Soulet & 137 D. Soulet & 138 B. Ruangin (Ina) 69 70, 141 Y. Shari & 49; Mirota & 73; C. Cap Dul-seng (S. Nat.) 71 C. C. Espansa & 40; M. 75 F. Naturalist & 71 T.C. C. Espansa & 40; M. 75 F. Naturalist & 71 T.C. F. Sancia & 134 S. Jan & 73; C. Sancia & 134 S. Jan & 134 ice hockey

988, Debrer 3 Dalas 1: Florida 3 Archiem 3 rot; Toronto 2 New Jersey 1: Philodebna 7 Buffalo 3: Persburgh 7 Montreal 5: Ottowa 5 Cheage 2: Edmonton 5 Colorado 3; San Jose 5 Winness ice skating Milit TROPHY BRUID PRIX (Fingers, Japan): Maris abort programme; 1 E Stoke (Car) 0.5 points: 2 P Candidon (Fr. 1.0; 3 i Pashkewich (Ras) 15; 4 S Cani (15) 2.0; 5 8 Causer (18)

#### SPORTING DIGEST

2.5: 6 Thordo (Japan) 3.0: 7 Min Zheng (China) 3.5: 8 A Abs. (Risc) 4.0: 9 5 Suzuki (Japan) 4.5: 10 D Luc (Ex) 5.0: 11 S Amono (Japan) 4.5: 10 D Luc (Ex) 5.0: 11 S Amono (Japan) 4.5: 12 S Votra Plungi 6.0. Vionencia statistica (Risc) 1.5: 4 N Yokiya (Japan) 2.0; 5 M Bayastaya (Risc) 2.5: 2 S Banayi (FO 1.0: 3 O Motiosa (Risc) 1.5: 4 N Yokiya (Japan) 2.0; 5 M Bayastaya (Risc) 2.5: 2 J Rebertom (Con) 3.0; 7 V Q sementia (Pri 3.5: 8 Mei 1.5: 10 K Kones (Japan) 5.0: 11 Park Boonsun 6 Kon 5.5. 1 Simporatione (Japan) 4.5: 10 K Kon 6.5: 10 N Y Risc) 4.5: 10 K Kon 6.5: 10 N Y Risch and 1 Steuer (Ser) 1.0; 3 N K Krestyannosa and A Torchmalky (Risc) 1.5: 4 M Krestyannosa and Sing Varag (Lu Risc) 3.0: 4 N Meion Sing Varag (Lu Risc) 4 N Meion Sing Varag (Lu R Set and FM Bornbornbor (CArr) 3.0. 7 Bab Sun-and Birg Varg Lu (CV) 3.5 Original fee dannie. 1 M Anssona and G Pezznet (Fr) Q.G; 2 S-L Bourre and V Next (Carr) 1.2; 3 E Selephinson-and D Next (Next) 2.4; 8 N Taxaski and J Pacifiate of Uppari) 3.0; 6 B Prion and A Prion (Fr) 3.0; 7 O Sharuter-to and D Next (Past) 4.2; 8 A Kowa and H Tanaka (Jepan) 4.8.

Rugby League

Otcham are to play six of their 11 Su-per League home games in 1996 at Boundary Park, the home ground of their footbaling neighbours, Oktham Athles-te. Tells are also taking place with Manchester City about playing at Maine

Road. Oldham's plan to use Manchesrocks. Johann s pain to use Manghes-ter United's stadium was ruled out be-cause Old Trafford is a venue for next summer's European Championship. Oldham's Watersheddings ground will be used when necessary in 1996 but by 1997 the club hope to be housed in a new committee. in a new council-built stadium near

Lawrie Smith heads a list of four confirmed contestants for the night to rep-resent Great Britain in the two-man Star-class keel boat at next year's Olympic Games in the United States. Trials will bearing to the states, treas will be restricted to regardless in Mann at the end of January and the beginning of March. The winner is likely to to face another elimination stage, as 20 contenders for the 13 places in the main event in Savannah will sail off at Lake Canda in Amit.

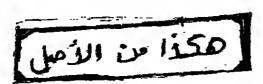
WORLD'S ALPINE WORLD CUP SIANT SIALOM (val disère, Pr): 1 M Erit (Ser) 1 min 54.44se: (57.19 & 57.25); 2 M Suhadok

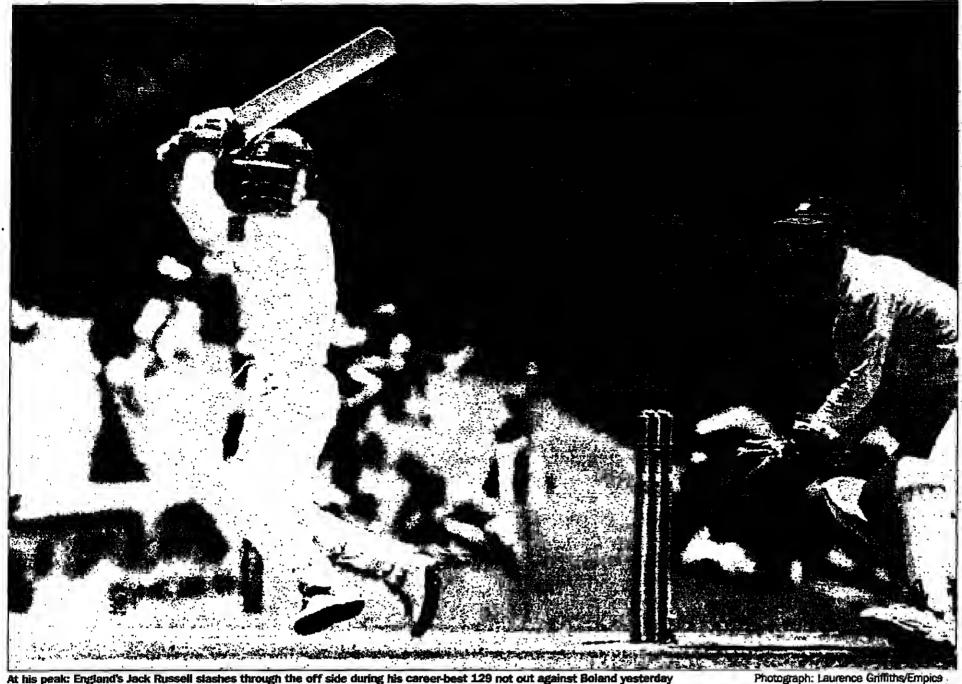
(Sloven) 1:54.57 (57.59 & 57.08); 3 A Mess-nobr (Aut) 1:54.83 (57.28 & 57.58); 4 K Rosen (Swit) 1:54.97 (58.08 & 56.89); 5 A Washler (Aut) 1:55.29 (57.51 & 57.78); 6 K Setzmer (Ger) 1:55.42 (57.90 & 57.51); 7 I Nosmer (B) 1:55.44 (57.32 & 58.12); 3 Y Noven Swit (Ger) 1:55-44 (57-50 & 57-51); 7 / Rosenter (Ger) 1:55-44 (57-30 & 57-51); 7 / Rosenter (II) 1:55-44 (57-32 & 55-1.21); 2 N Moven (Swe) 1:55-52 (58-22 & 57-30); 2 M M Dortmester (Aut) 1:55-55 (57-77 & 57-76); 11 S Parazini (II) 1:55-55 (57-77 & 57-76); 12 H M 2698-83/Her (Swil) 1:55-76 (57-80 & 57-92); 13 M Vog (Gen) 1:55-51 (57-80 & 58-1.5); 14 P Wiberg (Swe) 1:55-91 (57-76 & 58-1.5); 14 P Wiberg (Swe) 1:55-91 (57-76 & 58-1.5); 15 E Harsson (Sweden) 1:56-02 (57-72 & 58-23); 14 P Wiberg (Swe) 1:55-91 (57-76 & 58-1.5); 15 S E Harsson (Sweden) 1:56-02 (57-72 & 58-23); 2 M (Sweden) 1:56-02 (57-72 & 58-23); 2 M (Sweden) 1:56-02 (57-72 & 58-23); 2 M (Sweden) 1:57-(8 (58-14)); 2 E Harsson (Sweden) 1:56-02 (57-72); 2 M (Sweden) 1:57-(8 (58-14)); 2 E Harsson (Sweden) 1:57-(8 (58-14)); 2 E Harsso

GERMAN OPEN (Frankfort) S Hendry (Sco) to R Lawler

The top seed, Rodney Eyles of Australia, reached the quarter-finals of the Mahndra Challenge in Bombay yesterday with a brisk second-round victory over England's Mark Chaloner. Eyles, the defending champion and the world No 2, won 15-11, 15-12, 15-12 in just 42 minutes. His last-eight opponent will be another Englishman, Mark Calms, who waged a gim battle with Egypt's Amir Wagh, which was marked by constant arguments betwen Wagh and the German referce. Ourknerd Bruckmann. After losing 15-6, 15-9, 12-15, 9-15, 15-12, Wagh beinged his racket on the floor as he stormed off court.

MANDINGRA CHALLENGE (Boerbay) Second rounds S Parice (Engl b P Gunter (Engl 15-10) 15-4 15-12 15-17. If Eyles (Aug b M Chaloner (Engl 15-11) 15-12 15-12. The Eyles (Aug b M Chaloner (Engl 15-11) 15-12 15-12. M Cams (Engl 15-12) and Wagh (Eg) 15-6 15-9 12-15 3-15 15-12.





# Gough's Test place in danger

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Paarl England 402-8 dec Boland 129-4

Raymood Illingworth is not a man known for his indecision. True, he occasionally toys between having a bit of steak instead of the usual plece of haddock to go with his chips, but generally he is as unwavering in his cricketing decisions as he is

One of these, since his appointment as selector in chief. has been to get some gritty Yorkshiremen involved, at almost any cost. Which in Craig outweighed the appeals, despite with the ball and extremely low with the bat. However, Darren Gough's inclusion, was broadly hailed as a master stroke, particularly after the Yorkshireman's gutsy performances on the

As ever, Illingworth was not slow to lap up the credit, but

and when he hobbled off yesterday, shaking his head after pulling up in his fourth over – having apparently strained "something behind his knee" – his tour looked in

danger of drying up.
Gough had needed wickets here, even before injury struck, if he was not to test Chairman Ray's parochialism too far and keep his place in the Test side. No easy task on a strip offering little more than a double hernia to seam bowlers, and the audible grunts of effort, easily Unsurprisingly, giveo the

sluggish absorbent nature of the pitch, his closest rival, Mark flott, failed to take advantage of Gough's indisposition by remaining wicketless, and his claim for a place in the third Test may have to be placed on hold.

Not so Peter Martin, who is

Gough's performances on this tour have lacked both last winter's spirit and conviction. Without his chirpy confidence, he is a brook without babble, and other the babble of the potential conductors and the potential conductors are the possible of the potential conductors. Place the potential conductors are the possible of the potential conductors are the possible of the potential conductors. Stewart declared just after a liming that the possible of the potential conductors are the possible of the potential conductors. Stewart declared just after a liming to take England's first innings some to ta seam bowlers and he may well have become a late challenger for a place in the next Test. Bowling from the Stables

end, Martin got consistent bounce from short of a length, and his 10.2 overs deserved better than his 1 for 21. His persistence was rewarded wheo Bryan Baguley was caught at third slip, as he opened the bat face oo one that climbed.

#### the pair went about repairing the England total. During the last Test Russell batted like someone heing

Paarl Scoreboard

weighed in with an unbeaten 57,

day of three; England won ENGLAND - First Innings (Overright: 263 for 8)

M F Steing not out 0.0
Extress (NA, Int.) 129
Total (for 4, 55 owens) 129
Total (for 4, 55 owens) 129
Total (for 4, 55 owens) 129
To test: (1-M, Gernstruck, P. A.) DeFrotes, C. W. Handerson, C. W. Wilcoughby, S.) Drow, Bowling, Gough 3.4-1-4-0; Rott 10-3-24-0; Martin 10.2-4-21-1; Ringssort: 22-6-41-2; Wetchason 10-5-24-1. 

lunch. Russell scoring an un-defeated career-best 129, with irrespective of where the bowler lands the ball. As anyone who can recall his previous career-best score of 128 against Ausseven fours and one six in a 346minute vigil. Eight more min-utes and he would have tralia at Old Trafford in 1989 will completed 24 hours at the know, his method is a triumph crease on tour. Illingworth of heart over art.

He even managed a neat stumping, off Richard Illinghis best score for his country, as worth, or so the umpire thought, though the television replay confirmed otherwise. Unless the law has changed under new EU guidelines to protect downtrodden minorities (i.e. left-arm spinners) the batsmen, Terry Lazard, had at least three inches of footwear behind the line, when the bails were

eventually removed. With the ball spinning, Illingworth and Watkinson bowled a lengthy well in tandem. Lifeworth, the chairman that is, is desperate to play a balanced attack in a Test match. But while. Jack Russell's promotion to No

Palace side relegated last season

to leave Selhurst Park, for com-

has fees of more than \$13m.

have made a bid in excess of £2m

Atkinson is also thought to

having Kenny Jackson caught by Crawley off bat and pad at short leg. he is cut away far too often from balls too short and wide of the off-stump. Far better to be absternious and let the essure build like his left-arm foil Illingworth than seek extravagant turn and give away foo.

many runs. Once again the Worcester spinner showed he has no challengers on this tour. Even South Africa's coach, Bob Woolmer, was spotted watching him wheel away for 22 overs, which suggests the next pitch in Durban may take some spin. I it does, South Africa's batsmen will not have much to go on. The trickiest delivery which accounted for Lloyd Ferreira was one that did not turn. though by the time Boland ended the day at 129 for 4, the pitch had begun to stir.

More cricket, page 31

### **Britons fell** victim to vote fiddle'

Athletics

Allegations that Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson lost out on rigged voting for the 1994 Ath-

ic Federation. Cinstopher Winner, the for-mer IAAF spokesman, told the USA Today newspaper that Gun-oell, who topped the women's poll ahead of Jackie Joyner Kersee, and Jackson, second in the men's, had been pushed down to second and fourth respectively. Winner claimed he had been instructed to add 30 extra votes for Joyner Kersee - two weeks after the poll closed in No-vember 1994 - wheo it was learned that neither planned to attend the annual televised

He said the LAAF president. Primo Nebiolo, wanted to en-

Friday's edition of USA Today quoted Winner as saying: "I ticipating in what amounts to gross vote rigging." Istvan Gyu-lai, the IAAF general secretary, responded: "We firmly reject these allegations." He pointed out that in the past award win-

A spokeswoman for Nuff Respect. Jacksoo's management group, said: "Colin has said he would be very surprised if the allegations were true." Gunnell

#### In Monday's 24-page sports section

Preparing for Tyson

"I know a lot of people who would start smoking cigars and hanging about in Stringfellows. There have been quite a few boxers over the years who have lost themselves after they had won a world title. They allowed themselves to get carried away from it all, and it was awful to watch them. But I'm a young

man. I've got 30 years of work ahead of me and other careers to think about. That's why I'm prepared to clock in and work." Frank Bruno tells lan Stafford why he is looking forward to defending his world crown against the world's most awesome boxer

Preparing for Tokyo He's 43, he comes from Blackpool and he's about to take on the Japanese at their own game. Bill Etherington; Who won a bronze medal at the World Sumo Championships 12 months ago, looks



Mind games

forward to this year's event in Tokyo

Never mind skill, tactics or fitness, the key factor for many sportsmen and women today is their mental approach. In the first of a two-part study, John Roberts reports on the increasingly important role of

#### Comprehensive reports and analysis of all the weekend action

Extensive football coverage, including reports from every Premiership match Glenn Moore assesses Newcastle United's

championship challenge as Kevin Keegan's Premiership leaders face Chelsea at Stamford Bridge

Derek Pringle reports from South Africa as the England cricket team warm up for next week's third

Steve Bale watches the Western Samoa rugby union tourists as they prepare to face England at Twickenham next

Dave Hadfield on the quarter-finals of rugby league's Regal Trophy

Richard Edmondson reports from Cheltenham on the Tripleprint Gold Cup

Sports book of the week Greg Wood on sports betting ...and him Giovernas the Final Word

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford

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William Birt

SOR'S PLOT

### Atkinson offers £2.5m for Coleman

Football MATT TENCH

Four days after confirming that they are £9m in the red. Coventry City have given their manager Ron Atkinson £5m to alleviate their position at the bottom of the Premiership. Half the mooey may go straight to Crystal Palace. who have accepted an offer of £2.5m for their Welsh international defender Chris Coleman.

No. 2853. Saturday 9 December

Coleman was yesterday discussing terms with Atkinson, who said: "Chris has asked for the weekend to think it over. Out of the blue the chairman said that he wanted to bring someone of real quality into the dub and when he said the money was available I was amazed. On second thoughts I should oot have been. He is the most supportive chairman I have ever worked for. He wants success for all the right reasons, not for his personal reasons."

If the deal goes through the 25-year-old will be Atkinson's third Pulace signing in five aroute, joining Richard Shaw and John Salako at Highfield Road, It would also set a Coventry transfer record, beating the 12m spent oo Dioo Dublin. Coleman, who can play as a centre-half or leftback will not be available for today's visit by Blackburn Rovers but Chris Whyte, recruited from Birmingham City on a month's loan yesterday, is likely to play.

Bryan Richardson, the City chairman, said: "Where this

dub has gone wrong in the past is by buying players by the dozen for £250,000 in the hope that a few will make it. We're still left with a lot of them and they're still oot good enough. That's why we'll be buying quality oot quantity from now oo." Swansea, who sold Coleman to Palace for £275,000 in 1991 will.

receive a quarter of the fee. Coleman is the 12th member of the for a Premierable midfielder which may go through in the next few days, with Robbie Earle (Wimbledon), Alan Thompson (Bolton), Gavin Peacock (Chelsea) and Craig Hignett (Middlesbrough) the most likely candidates.

Ginola's dream, page 28 Weekend preview, page 29

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD ACROSS

day receive hardbacked copies of the excellent Chambers Biographical Dictionary, worth £35. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solctions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode, Last week's winners were: Bernard Holt, Sutton Coldfield; Mr KT Harrison, Wantage; CG Andrews, Oxfordshire; R & J Besant, Dunstable; Dr Moragh J Noakes, Dorset.

Firm is found in square (4) Needing little cash, or beginning to deal in kind? (10)

10 Food processor's a source of trouble (8) 11 Reportedly funches in seaside recesses (6)

Freech brass in charge (6) 13 Expanded English garden, made to ac-

commodate lake (8)
15 Divers, perhaps (13)
18 Initiate bold knight, say (8)
20 Bird resulting from reduction of the

22 Show up in cheap pearls (6)
24 One won, playing in unfamiliar poker group? (8) 25 One of four right on the line in court (10) 26 Sounded rough - and had regrets (4)

Friday's solution

UNITIDULLY BINLAGE
N O I A 8 I W T
WALLSTREETCRASH
I E O R R O R E
SCRUBBY INSTIDER
A B E I E
ABEYANCE AROMA
R L A R R L
EMBIND MAINITAIN
P R E R E S
HENRIES ADAINST
R I V A I P I O

DOWN One arranging courses for weight reduc-tion, initially (10) Deranged element around North (6)

Bit from piano piece (8)
Like families born into hardship (6)
It could be court for the bounder (8) Southern crowd's in the groove (4) Emergency measure when making pan-

14 E.g. elder in set, say, squandered wealth (4,6) 16 Hangs from shelves (8) 17 Note ring produced by atmospheric fac-

19 Extra non-English crew member for ves-

21 Green shoots up in sandy deserts (just) 23 Beoefit from having a nap? Not quite (4)

Last Saturday's solution

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

lete of the Year awards were de-nied yesterday by the International Amateur Athlet-

sward dinner in Monte Carlo.

sure the top three athletes in each poll attended a ceremony broadcast to 74 countries.

can only express shame for parners such as Carl Lewis had contributed by satellite link."

said she had no comment.

Wethought about calling it C.T.'s Finger. but it isn't long and knobbly with a glowing light at the end. THE SERIOUS BEER WITH THE SILLY NAME.

### Independent

# Damien dd next

(with a little help from Eddie and Keith) page 9

### INSIDE STORIES

- Michael is torn between his inalienable position as his company's authority figure and his gut feeling that it would be beneficial, public relations-wise, to be seen to let his hair down for one special night. 'I will wear the Santa hat, he concludes, 'but I will not dance on the table'
- 'About 18 people a year go missing' in the New Forest, says Karl. 'OK, so it's not a great problem compared to the Brecon Beacons. But it's still a problem. Children wander out of tents. And the Dorset Coastal Path is absolutely deadly.' Which is where the otterhound comes in
- 1 like the public perception of me that makes people too scared to come up to my table when I'm out having dinner,' says Sean Penn, the brat actor turned director who swapped the knuckle-duster for the clapper-board. 'A bad reputation is hell of a device for privacy
- Why do the British dress up so badly? Famous for our sense of occasion we seem to have no sense of occasion wear. It could be genetic. There could be some deep, inborn reason why British women look less chic the more important the occasion and the more they lavish upon the outfit

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PICTURE STORY ......2

BOOKS

ARTS .....8-9 

TRAVEL MOTORING MONEY PENSIONS SPECIAL

of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.



Pictures by Brian Harris, Nicholas Turpin. Story by Dan Patterson

# THE OFFICE PART





the complex and unnerving world of the office party. the temporary cessation of the fragile ecostructure of the workplace environment. The unassuming mousey assistant to the facilities manager who, 364 days of the year, timidly avoids eye contact, and then, come the Christmas party, turns up in Lycra and starts flamenco dancing on top of the CD Rom. These are strange times; when we must re-evaluate our carefully constructed perceptions so radically. But tomorrow, it'll all be OK: she will be mousey again.

will be mousey again.

Charlie, from Debenhams, thinks he may "tap off with one of the ladies tonight from the head office", but fears that because they all come from Basildon, they're probably all lesbians".

Suzie contends this claim.

We are not lesbians. We just don't fancy Charlie. Would

Michael, the boss of Chatham's branch of Expanse Communications, is torn between his inalienable position as the company's authority figure – "respect comes naturally from distance, and respect is vital in maintaining the power structure" – and his gut feeling that it would be beneficial, pub-

lic relations wise, to be seen to be able to let his bair down for one special night. "I will wear the Santa hat," he concludes, "but I will not dance on the table. And you certainly cannot photograph me in the Santa hat. Out of context, it may be misconstrued."
"Can one maintain respect whilst in a Santa hat?" I ask.

"There are no hard and fast rules," admits Michael. "It is all in the individual's psychological make-up. Hang on? What's this?"

Janine - from marketing - has just rested a jelly on Michael's head, and the table turns, silently, to see how he will respond to this festive crack in the

"That's very funny," says Michael. "Very funny indeed." He pauses. "But don't think you an get away with that in the staff canteen tomorrow!"

Everyone laughs and visibly relaxes. Michael turns and winks at me. "See?" he whispers.

Over at the Islington hranch of the Body Shop party - at Casper's wine bar in Hanover Square - they are nervous

that the independent may misinterpret the fun to be something bad, something illicit.

"We're doing nothing wrong. It's just a laugh. Honestly.
This isn't a bad thing. You journalists always pick on us. But this is just fun. It doesn't mean anything."

this is just fun. It doesn't mean anything."

"I'm not picking on you," I say, "although your foam hath doesn't foam properly."

"It does! It does! Especially the Venezuelan milk hath. Just put double the amount specified under the hot tap... and hang on. I don't want to talk shop tonight. We're having fun. There's nothing wrong with that."

And at Anemos restaurant in Charlotte Street, some of the gentlemen watching the belly dancer are officers from one of the local police stations, celebrating another successful year of crime fighting.

"If you take our obotograph close up," one suggests, with

"If you take our photograph close up," one suggests, with a rather startlingly unfestive facial expression, "we will find out where you live, follow you home, and make sure you never take another photograph in your life. You'd better watch yourself. We've got diplomatic immunity."

"Tve got three of these tonight," says the helly dancer. "Tm off to Ealing and Acton next. They're a pretty quiet crowd tonight. A bit reserved."



THIS WEEKEND WHY NOT...

は一大学の大学の大学



#### READ

#### The new Elizabeth Jane Howard

Leave the outside world locked in an icy embrace, stoke up the kindling, poke the Coalite and dive into the Cazalet chronicles. Casting Off - the fourth of Elizabeth Jane Howard's quartet of fictions set between 1937 and 1947 and starring the titular family (the other three are: available in Pan paperback, £4.95) - has just been published, to rave reviews (see page 12). It's that rare literary phenomenon: the intelligent sage. Imagine: 2,000 pages of family-fortunes popular fiction at which highbrows do not sneer and which nervous middlebrows may admit to enjoying. Apart from charting 10 years of triendships, affairs, rows, war and reconciliation, the books give you an unrivalled picture of Britain during the less war - the wallpaper you'd have chosen, the correct way of dealing with servants, the peculiar taste of fationed bread. Unmissable.

### Casting Off is published by MacMillan at £15.99



#### A Georgina von Etzdorf scarf

Most people's idea of a scarf is something scratchy and woolly that you were forced to wear at school and always managed to lose. As Isabella Rossellini, the Princess of Wales, Mick Jagger and David Bowie will tell you, a von Etzforf scarf is something else. Her trademarks are velvet (she was responsible for the whole vervet renaissance), satins and chiffon with instantly recognisable prints that look like the doodles of an artist lost deep in thought. What's more, you don't take these luscious items of once you step indoors. They can caress your neck or slip teasingly from your shoulders. They frame a humble black dress with a halo of colour, and transform a simple white shirt into a dandyish outifit.

Georgina von Etzdorf Designs start at £85 and are available from her shops at 50 Burlington Arcade, London W1 (0171-409) 7789) and 149 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-823 5638



#### SEE

### Twyla Tharp's Ressie Ballet

Twyla Tharp has choreographed everything from Philip Glass in the thrilling, exhibitating in the Upper Room to Frank Stratus's his in the glamorous, bewitching Nine Sinatra Sorgs.
Now America's most gifted and exciberant
choreographer has created a antength piece. with the Royal Ballet and the result, Mr Worldly-Wise, opens tonight with an all-Rossini. score. What's more, she has chosen Darcay Bussell, Irek Mukhamedov and Tetsuo Kumakawa (who can leap higher than a hawk) as her leading dancers. You have to pay over £200 to see Pavardti or Domingo at Covent Garden. Top-price tickets for this breathlessly anticipated event are, wait for it, £27.50 down to just £2. If you haven't seen Tharp, you haven't seen dance.

Mr Wordly-Wise is at Covent Garden, London WC2, 7pm (0171-304 4000)

### EAT AT

#### The Avenue

Anyone who's anyone is bored of the Atlantic, so

grab your tastebuis and cocktail dress and join the likes of Bruce Springsteen and Mica Paris at the capital's swanklest new restaurant, the The capital's swenkiest new restaurant, the Avenue, it's got a hige, lofty dining area, and the biggest bar in the UK, topped with amber glass. Shrinking violets had better clash elsewhere, since architecteffick Mather's brief is "urben theathe". This basically means glass wells and rountings to thice everyones starting at everyone lise. Or the glattividen wall, or Norman Parkinson's photographs by the five bend, on the staff spuring Nicole Fath uniforms or lawls a mercy, their book Yes it's a bend, on the staff sporting Naces rang unacounts or, lawks a mercy, their food. Yes, it's a restaurant too, and the "progressive, modern Enropean" tuck will set an track a and outrageous (25 per head with wine.

If the Avenue, 7/9 St James's Street, London SWI (0171-321 2121)

#### **National Cat Club Show**

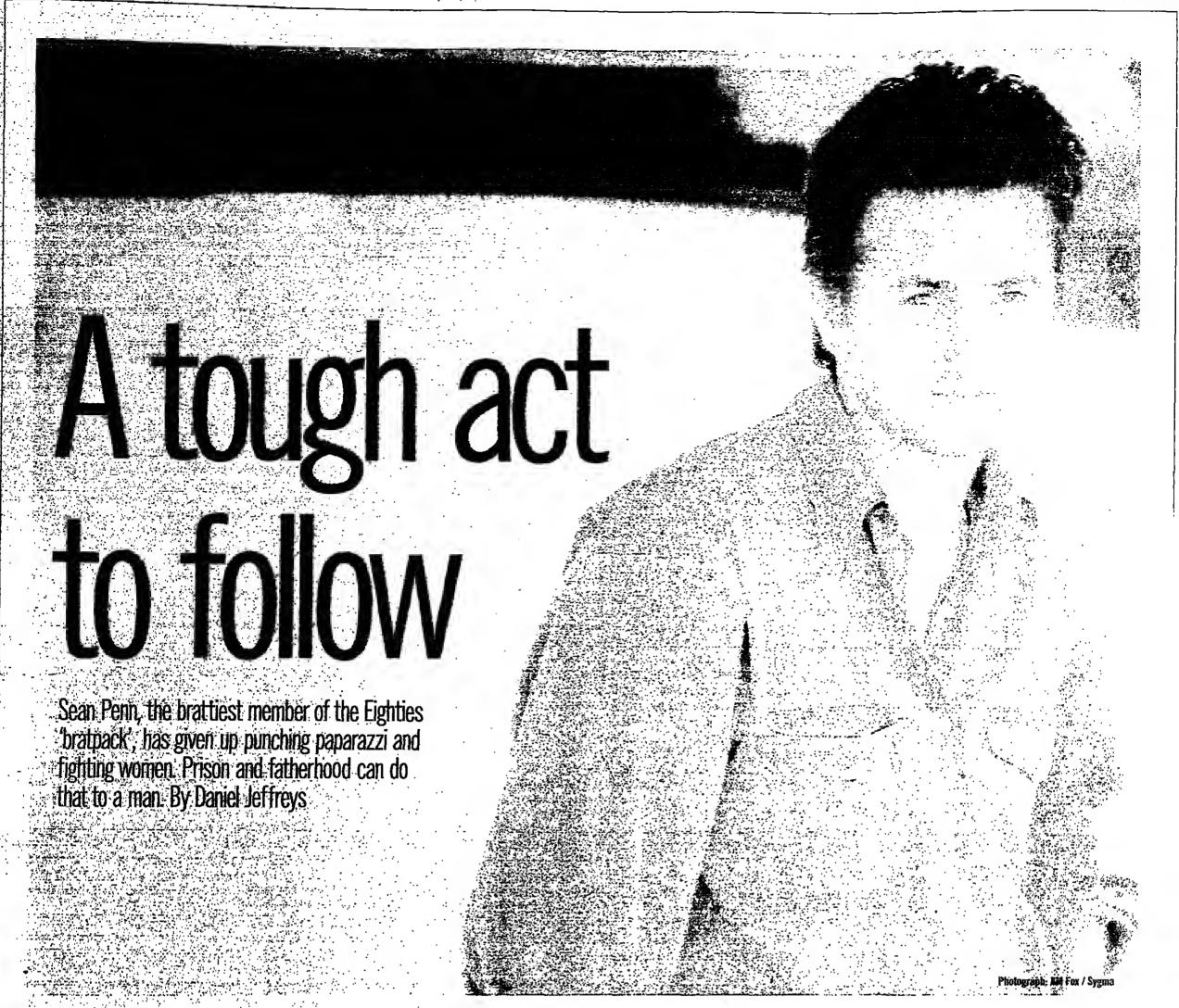
VISIT

EDITED BY DAVID BENEDICT

Beby tigers are on the cose in London today, not be mention little occlots and the odd newered splainx - just three of the more exotic perpendicular spraint — just three or the more exotic flew preeds of feline gracing today's National Cat Guo State at Olympia. Purr with delight at The Bengal (bred in India), the spotted Ocicat and pro new longhairs. Norwegian Forest and Many Roon. Feel the hairs on your back bristle with alarm at the pink Hairless Cat which looks Tike MS come in for a severe scalding, and the Scottish Fold, which appears to have had its ears stapled to his head. Would-be champion breeders, take note: judges are unimpressed by names like Tiddles: Last year's Cat of the Year went by the fittle of Grand Premier Chakel Ever Ready Eddy.

National Cat Club Show, Olympla, Hammersmith Rd, London W14, 10.30am-5.30pm. £4/£2 children & OAPs





all say the same thing - don't magazine.

mess. This is Sean Penn, Holly This is a wood perennial bad boy, the man who married Madonna, the ex-con. Lighting his fourth. cigarette in 20 minutes, Penn leans back and smiles through a haze of smoke. "You know, people's image of you can be very liberating." Sean Penn was 35 last August. He

has two children by his former girlfriend, the actress Robin Wright. He's old enough to have outgrown the socalled "bratpack" of the early Eighties." in which he shared top billing with Tom Cruise and Mickey Rourke. But he'a young enough not to have crased the reputation he earned in those early years - in a group of young, hot-hlooded male actors who wore their curled lips and bad attitudes like badges of rank- it was something of anachievement to earn the status of black sheep of the bratpack. But Penn rose to the challenge magnificently and took the title with ease with a series of brawls and bad relationships that made him a public relations disaster area for the studios he worked with. Penn had leading roles in Bad Boys (1983), The Falcon and the Snowman (1985) and Colors (1988), but his notoriety as a ticking bomb made him impopular with producers, who found his behaviour disruptive.

Sean Penn the grown-up is now sell-ing himself as a director, and in doing so he's demonstrating the kind of discipline few thought he The He made his directorial debut in 1991 with The Indian Runner, which earned mixed reviews but was considered good enough to give him a second shot. He now writes his own scripts and has developed a knack of hustling Hollywood money to make films the way he wants to make them.

Penn directed, wrote and co-produced his latest film, The Crossing Guard, a story of loss and revenge that has just opened in the US. He also coaxed remarkable performances from two of Hollywood's classiest players, Jack Nichelson and Amelica Huston, as the parents of a boy killed by a drunk driver in a bleak, harrowing film that makes few allowances for traditional Hollywood rules (no happy endings here).

The movie will open in the UK next month, but it has already won critical acclaim in America - "beautifully atmospheric", said Entertainment inmate and his performance is chilling.

Weekly, "astonishing", said the New putting him right up there with some

he eyes, the hair, the hands: they erful films this year", said New Yorker

This is a far cry from Shanghai Surprise, the George Harrison-produced movie in which Penn co-starred with Madonna in 1986 while the two were married. Halliwell's Film Guide called the movie "astonishingly abysmal"; the New York Times nominated it as "a strong candidate for worst movie of the decade"; and Variety said the film was "so bad it hurt"...

The bad boy in Sean Penn was surpassing himself at this time: he was variously accused of assaulting Madonna, assorted paparazzi and a host of people unlucky enough to get in his way. The drugs and the alcohol didn't help any and his career prospects were looking distinctly B-list. Then in 1987 he spent 37 days in the Los Angeles County jail for reckless driving, time enough to decide that it would be a good idea to grow up a little.

They put leg irons on me, handcuffs real tight and a belly chain - the whole works. It weren't too comfortable." We're sitting in a Manhattan hotel room and Penn's whole demeanour still suggests an edge. His face has the nicks of a street fighting man. In between cigarettes he takes ice from a glass of Coke and cracks it between his teeth - not, perhaps, the most menacing of gestures, but you can imagine him doing the same thing to small rocks. His clothes are street smart. A grey jacket with two shirts beneath, both with open necks, cuff buttons undone.

"I don't see life as an opportunity to see how bad things can get, although I think I've challenged it a bit." He takes a deep drag on his cigarette and coughs; making a strange noise at the back of his throat. "Like, I've got to give these up. But in life you have to make some investment in uncomfortable things, like fear and pain and rage. Now I think I have just built better channels

for all those feelings." Sean Penn more or less announced his retirement from acting in 1991 so that he could concentrate on The Indian Runner. Then financial pressures forced him back in front of the lens to co-star in Al Pacino's Carlito's Way, a performance that won critical acclaim. Now he's acting again, in Dead Man Walking, written and seen one movie like that come out of this directed by his friend Tim Robbins. (The movie will be released in the UK next March.) Penn plays a Death Row York Observer, "one of the most pow- of cinema's most convincing villains.

The film is based on a book by Sister Helen Prejean, played in the film by Susan Sarandon. She was on Death Row with the character portrayed by Penn and she watched him recreate the scene. "Sean, was astonishing in the role. I was so convinced one time. I accidentally called him by the dead man's name [Matthew Poncelet]. When I watched him again on film I couldn't stop crying." Sister Prejean believes that Peno's performance should put him in line for an Oscar, not that he'll get one. He's still

too much of an outsider. "The rule in Hollywood today is that movie with more than two thoughts is an unsuccessful picture." Penn leans forward and strikes the table. "Every fucking moment of your movie should be a big deal, and if it's not truly a part of your heart, then it's garbage. I think this is now an incredibly cowardly husiness and it makes me very angry.

And what makes Penn very angry is this: that big money and big corporations such as Time Warner and Sony have stifled creativity. "As far as I'm concerned, most people in this business are a bunch of scared puppies. I don't think it takes much to do something with thought. Literally, you put three ideas together in a movie and you are my hero." He leans back in his chair to exhale, a neat effect before pressing home his attack. "I can't find those movies. Ever."

He's prepared to make some exceptions. Penn's influences as a director are John Cassavetes, Martin Scorsese and Woody Allen. "I'm a huge fan of Woody. I've enjoyed all his work, even the bad ones. I would love to see Scorsese direct a Cassavetes script or Scorsese direct Allen.

nd he's a fan of European cinema. "France still has an active tradition of treating films as a means of expression - I loved Betty Blue. Here it's just a business." He lists among his favourite movies My Life as a Dog Swedish director Lasse Hallström's 1985 feature about a young child's summer with a relative in the country. "It's just a simple, beautiful story. It's story-telling that happens to be done honestly, without some pat idea about how life is supposed to be. You have not comes out of Hollywood," continues Penn. on a roll now. "I'm including the so-called moderns," Quentin Tarantino? He'll give you Quentin Tarantino: "That's experimental noveau chic bullshit."

from Penn. Thoughtfulness, from a man once famed for hitting before thinking, is more surprising. In a year when Hollywood has been under attack by rightwing politicians (the Republican Senator Bob Dole referred to it as a "cesspool of depravity"). Penn is concerned that the industry is entering a dark era of increasing repression, a trend he sees throughout the country.

and further to the right. I think the whole country is moving further and further to the right." Penn smiles, a twinkle in his eye, as if he's daring you to cast him as a crank. Perhaps it's to emphasise the point that his speech takes a wilder turn. "The only thing that's been proved about moving to the right is that ultimately it gets taken too far and people rise up. The problem is now we no longer have a war on the streets where oppressed people are going to be turned against their own kind and then refuse to follow orders. We used to have the blacks in police cars and tanks oppress their own people, and there was always the chance one day they would just say 'oo' and would turn those weapons against the government. Now it's all technological. We have smart bombs and can do it all without human contact by pressing buttons, so we're fucked."

Penn rounds off this passage with a laugh, but he's not finished yet. Oh no. These days it is politicians, not paparazzi. who are on the receiving end of his famous temper. "They are still going to need a population at the end of the day to make money for them, so we are going to need a whole ocw kind of revolution. one that copes with this new global empire, which is all corporate.

"You hope that movies can be important in defending freedom," continues Penn, crunching ice and striking a match. "But if they can do good, they can also be damaging. Movies are powerful medicine, for good and ill. Sometimes it's hard to justify any involvement with Hollywood."

Penn has been involved, since birth. He was born into a showbusiness family and his brother Christopher is also an actor. He first made a splash in 1981 as a military cadet in Tups. Then he played Jeff Spicoli, the ultimate surfer dude in Fast Times at Ridgemont High, a hilarious satire on tecnage sex in the Eighties. The movie revealed a natural comic charm that Penn has rarely displayed on film (and, given the reception given to his priests-on-the-run ended in recriminations. He was seen out another eigerette. A had reputation comedy We're No Angels, with Robert with a string of other women and both is a hell of a device for privacy.

Despite some strong acting credits. Penn does not want to be seen as an actor. He accepted the role in Dead Man Walking because he loved the script and Tim Robhins is, like him, a writer/director. He is scheduled to play Brendan Behan in a biographical movie about the Irish playwright, but he is not keen to take on other roles.

"Acting gives me far fewer choices." "I think movies are moving further he says. "When you act, the people around you are imposed from outside. right down to the prop shifters. I like to pick the people I have to be with at 6am or 7am. When I start to write or direct I'm looking furward, looking at something I'm not yet sure about. If I'm acting. I'm going back and looking at something I already know."

> any who have worked with Sean Penn say he now takes his craft seriously: I mean, he is even said to arrive at the set oo time, something no selfrespecting wild man would build into his schedule (the young Penn was indeed a late shower on sets). It's clear he wants to be taken seriously. As he focuses on the smoke above his head he appears to struggle for the words that define his various personalities. He describes himself as "intuitive". "impetuous", and as "having trouble

coping with my rage on occasion". Perhaps the best clues to his personality and interests lie in the common thread that binds The Indian Runner with The Crossing Guard and Dead Man Walking. All three are about men in deep emotional trouble. "I'm interested in questions of guilt and rage," says Penn. What do you do with guilt and rage! And what is rage if it's not a huffer for facing loss? The thing that paralyses us most is the fear of future loss. I guess with all these movies I'm trying to comfort myself on that issue."

Penn gets up to stretch and walks around the room. He's only about 5ft oin, but he packs a lot of energy into a small frame. He looks every inch the hard man, and he has the tattoo to prove it: a heart on his left thumh. "I did the outline of this in jail," he says. "I got bored. When I got out, a lady put her initials in the centre." The heart has longer visible. "Yep, some other lady made me do that."

Ah, the ladies. His marriage to Madonna lasted less than a year and

This kind of outspokenness you expect De Niro, rare it is likely to remain). he and Madonna accused each other of violent behaviour. Penn is an admirer of tough women. "I like writing about women, my scripts tend to be little love letters to whoever I'm thinking about at that time. Little homages to their toughness. Women are the bane of my exis-

tence but I always fall for them." Penn subscribes to the Hollywood mantra of honesty - something, he says. he seeks in his relationships the reveals he's a one-woman-guy at heart] and in his movies. But scoff not: those who have worked with him most recently see him as the genuine, honest article. "Sean has a lot of strengths as a director," says David Morse, who plays the target of Nicholson's rage in The Crossing Guard. "He has a real world view and that makes him want to tell the story his way." Cathy Moriarty, an Oscar winner, has kept a close eve on Penn's career for a decade: "Sean has no fear," she says. "He has found his niche in life, he's a wonderfully talented director,"

But Penn is no durling. He has proved himself a difficult customer to work with - an insider at one of the studios which has backed his projects says: "Sean is a nightmare, he's so committed to his vision that in an argument he'll take no prisoners, It makes it hard to negotiate."

Penn insists on absolute control as a director. His cut is the final cut, he will allow no change of endings to satisfy some focus group in suburban Illinois. "As the writer of the film, I don't want anybody to mess with it." says Penn. "But there's another side. I am setting a product and I want people to come and buy again, so if I have final cut authority, I can invite arguments into the process without feeling compromised."

At the VHI Fashion and Music awards in New York this week Penn was a surprise guest, presenting a statuette to Madonna. The tabloids went crazy with speculation about a reconciliation. Penn lights another cigarette and blows smoke on the idea; the only kind of partnership he won't rule out is an acting partnership. "I think she's an untapped talent - given the right material I'd work with Madonna. She's a very specific presence in the world and in my life."

Brat turned director, knuckle-duster swapped for a clapper-board. Sean Penn has enjoyed the transition, but he now been coloured in, the initials no wouldn't want you to think all his rough edges have been smoothed. "I like the public perception of me that makes people too scared to come up to my table when I'm out having dinner." He stubs

### If he trots towards you chewing, get out quick

y first job of the day is to check the pigs are all there and give them their morning feed. We have one boar and five breeding sows now, which is down a bit on last year, but still means we'll produce 35-40 piglets next

"During the mating sea-son, before Christmas, I can"t go in the pen because the boar would attack me. During the rest of the year he's usually all right: although if he trots towards you chewing hard it's time to get out - he"s sharpening his tusks against each other ready for a fight.
"In the wild they're a difalways send animals in pairs

ferent thing altogether: very shy and retiring. A boar would have to be really pushed to than scalded. attack, although dngs are a problem. They don't like £200, but even so, there's no

hiding they'll go at it.
"My boar came originally from Poland – and like most Polish animals he's very big and black. The sows are much smaller and, coming from France, light brown. The herd lives in a bit of waste ground, fenced in with electric netting.

They each get a daily bucket of cake and two or three times a week I tip in a We would like our animals to be organic, but it would be is four times the price. Instead we sell our animals as "addigrowth promoters, hormones and antibiotics. I worm them, but that's all in the way of medicines. A wild boar grows very slowly - five years before outside all year round even a big boar has finished - and though we're 1,500 feet up. you can't get round it. Feeding growth hormones and the like has been tried and it just

"Last year I grew a field of fodder beet for them - I broadcast the seed by hand in a paddock they'd ploughed up and fertilised. I didn't bother to harvest it - just let them

"Most of our animals go to a 'real meat' shop two miles up the road, but I also sell to a game dealer. At first we had problems finding an abattoir a wild boar's hristles are so coarse they clog up the machines and once one got hutchers up against the wall.

Now we have a deal where we before you get a clear shot.



**COUNTRY LIVES** 

Daniel Butler talks to Andrew Holman, wild boar farmer near

- they're calmer in a herd and they're skinned rather

them at all and if one comes sniffing around where they're unlike sheep, there are no subsidies. Also, commercial pigs are ready for slaughter at four to six months, but it's 18 months before my animals reach 100lbs.

"To be honest, the real reason I do it is because I fell in love with them while I was on exercises in Germany. When I left the army and went into sheep farming. I wanted to diversify into something a bit trailer load of stock potatoes. more interesting. To find out more, I went to a conference where I expected everyone asts. Instead I found most were commercial pig farmers. tive free" - reared without looking to increase the hardiness of their animals.

"That's because there's very little work with wild boar - they are so tough they live Unlike our 800 sheep, we never have to call the vet during farrowing. A hoar's pelvic contractions are so powerful they would break your arm if you tried to belp and anyway the piglets are torpedo shaped and come rocketing out with no problems.

The only real headache is when one gets out. They immediately become very shy and nocturnal and shooting is the only answer. It's difficult and time-consuming. Unlike most animals, a wild boar's eyes don't show up in a torch beam, so you have to bait where you can floodlight the frisky and had one of the whole area. Even then it can

#### A little local trouble A weekly round-up

of rural rumpuses

The salmon are running. This is good news for fishermen - and for poachers. Andrew Veitch, a former manager with the Tweed Foundation and river hailiff, has just set up Fish First, a consultancy to advise landowners in the Scottish Borders how to deal with poachers. He knows what he is talking about. In his 18 years on the

rivers Mr Vcitch has had his office set on fire and been threatened with beatings by poaching gangs.

The growing reputation of the Clyde as a salmon river in particular is encouraging irregular methods of fishing. "It seems some members of the local population are gaining a certain notoriety for devising innovative ways to get the salmon out of the water," Mr Veitch said. "Crossbows have been mentioned, but at this stage I don't know what advice I could offer to stop that method of fishing.



# They're mucky, they smell

But they could just save your life. Meet the otterhounds. By Martin Whittaker

leash, raring to go. Owner and trainer Karl Hopton sees her up. "Go on then, Caush!...find ber... go on...

And she's off, ber keen nose to the ground. With Karl barely keeping up. Cautious pelts through the heather, down into the valley, up the other side and then disappears over the brow of

Soon she reappears with her quarry, RSPCA supervisor Sheila Rowe, who was attempting to hide in the next valley.

This is just a demonstration. In a proper training session the day before, another of Karl's hounds, Grayling, managed to track some-

hits, deer and New Forest ponies.

Cautious and Grayling are otterhounds, an old and rare

Karl. 31, was a dog trainer with

Photographs: Alexander Caminada breed. The earliest references of go back to the thirteenth century. But it's believed that the otterbound as we know it was establisbed as a breed in the 19th cen-

When ofters became protected the hounds were used to hunt mink, for the show ring and occasionally as pets. Today there are reckoned to be only between 200 and 300 left in this country.

Now Karl Hopton has found a new job for the magnificent otterhound - hunting people. He is training Cautious, Grayling and

big shaggy bound called and Search Dog Service for Cautious is straining at the Dorset and the New Forest.

The scheme has financial backing from a number of local councils and the approval of Dorset police, and is expected to he aunched in January. Karl and a group of fellow otterhound owners will take turns to be on call, ready to respond in the event of

an emergency.

"About 18 people a year go missing here," says Karl. "OK, not a great problem if you compare it with somewhere like the Brecon Beacons. But it's still a problem. The New Forest attracts a lot of visitors, and there are children who wander ont of tents. Then there's the Dorset Coastal Path, which is absolutely deadly.

Until now they've been using body who's scent had been cold for the police dog section to find eight hours, across moorland ripe with the distracting scents of rabwith the distracting scents of rabthe ability to track much longer Cautious and Grayling: able to track

the Army when he first saw an hounds being used to hunt otters otterhound being used by the Garda in Ireland to sniff out explosives. When he left the Army he became an animal welfare officer with East Dorset District Council. Then one day be went to license a local kennels that bred otterhounds.

I said I remember those - can I take one out, see whether they'll track men? They said by all means. So we kept going out every day, taking a different one. None of them had ever done it before, but they all had this ability.

"They're the hardiest breed I



Photographs: Alexander Caminada

going. You could go through thickest brambles and gorse with an otterhound and it wouldn't bat an eyelid. A bloodhound wouldn't even attempt it - it would go around and try to pick up the scent on the other side.7

He's been training four otterhounds since April this year, and is now starting on a bloodhound-otterhound cross - a "blotterhound" called Bowman.

Out on moorland on the edge of the New Forest, Cautious and Grayling go lolloping through treacherous-looking bogs, and two other hounds for a new Track know - they just keep going and plunge into a ditch of brackish

water, hasking in it as if that's Try and imagine them coming out where they belong. In a sense, it is. They're built totally for the job they used to do, explains Karl. They've got a very thick double

coat, one of the coats is very wiry,

rather like a waxy Barbour jacket. If you tip a hucket of water over them it just runs off. You have to really soak them to get them wet. "All dogs have a web foot, but the otterhound's web is wider, and

they've got long ears that are heavily insulated. They are made for the cold Scottish rivers they're tremendous swimmers. Training them, bowever, is not easy. "Hounds are a dog-trainers"

nightmare. They're very independent – they'll do exactly what they want to do – suddenly pick up the scent of a rabbit and they're off. You have to be really patient with them, you have to try and channel that hunting instinct.

scent' - because I believe these hounds are living in a world of their own. They're not in our world most of the time - they're wandering along, and they're so husy discovering the scent that they wander up to you and crash straight into your feet.

Another aspect of the otterhound he loves is its placid nature. They're completely non-aggressive both to other dogs and humans. Although some people do keep them as pets, Karl sees them more as working hounds.

"Mine live in a kennel outside

and I wouldn't bave them in the house. The reason is that when they're dirty, they're really dirty.

of the river, that coat full of water. And they have an odour about them. No - they're working animals.

So impressed is be with the otterbound's nose, its power and its hardiness, that he would like to see one based with every search and rescue organisation in the UK.

"That would be the ultimate for me. It would also give the otterhound a complete role in life. At the moment it's only the show ring that's keeping them going, and that's a damn shame because they've got so much to offer."

Jean Pretious, a retired breeder, has some 25 otterhounds at her kennels near Holsworthy in Devon and has helped keep the breedgoing. Unlike Karl, she believes they do make good pets.

"The strength of the breed is "We've put a logo on all our let-terheads - Living in a world of have lovely natures. They love children.

"The only thing against them as pets is their ability to track. You have to have a secure garden hecause if they do get a scent of something, they're off. Then again I've had three go off for 24 hours and they all came back.

"I've beard some huntsmen say they're thick, but I think that's because they only see them doing one job. I find they're extremely intelligent, but you do have to stay one step ahead of them.

me gifts are 11

"I'm delighted with what Karl Hopton's doing, because this gives the otterbound another outlet. It's a real shot in the arm for the

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### Monstrous stone gargoyles keep vigil over an abandoned Gothic mansion. Do they know the answer to the riddle of why it was never finished?

or some people it is the alltime white elephant, both useless and insatiable. For others it is a priceless architectural jewel. Without ques-

I refer to Woodchester, the Gothic mansion tucked deep among the woods in a valley near Stroud. Begun in 1858, abandoned unfinished in 1871, never completed, adorned by monstrous stone gargoyles, it remains an amazing memorial to the religious enthusiasm of its creator,

William Leigh.
A successful merchant and. in middle age, a convert to Roman Catholicism, Leigh set out to create a huilding that would be not only his own bome, but also a replica of a medieval monastic community. Having quarrelled with his first arcbitect, Augustus Pugin (who also designed the House of Commons), he put the project in the hands of a young local man, Benjamin Bucknall, who had been strongly influenced by that master of Gothic revival,



### HART-DAVIS

The result was an immense edifice of pronouncedly Gothic character with the heavy buttresses and steeply pointed arches one would expect in a church, built almost entirely of stone, and incorporating a chapel, a bakery and a brewery. Such was the scale of it, so fine the work of the masons, that rumour claimed Leigh planned it as a sanctuary for the Pope, who at one stage had been driven from the Vatican by revolutionary pressures.

After an initial three-year spurt, construction slowed, and doddered on for another Mansion Trust, a band of ded-

halt. Why it stopped, we shall never know. Leigh, living on the rim of the valley only a few hundred yards away, must have gone down a thousand times to see bow his new home was progressing, and it must have been with a heavy heart that he called a halt.

Did he run out of money? Was he worried by declining health? Why did his builders leave wooden scaffolding, a ladder and even some of their tools on site?

The roof was on, but many of the windows remained unglazed. For more than a century and a quarter the wind has whistled through the great, gaunt shell - and, paradoxically, the fact that so much air goes through has helped preserve it. Nevertheless, by 1986 rain had started to penetrate the roof, and if Stroud District Council had not stepped in to buy it from the offshore trust which owned it, parts would have collapsed.

Now the building is in the care of the Woodchester

decade before coming to a licated volunteers who rent it nowhere else. It is also used halt. Why it stopped, we shall from the Council for a nom- as a centre for masterclasses inal sum and open it to the public on selected weekends in summer. By raising more than £20,000 a year, to supplement grants from the Council and English Heritage, they have been able to carry out preliminary repairs.

They have also installed electricity and running water, and made a few rooms usable for meetings; but their aim is to restore the entire structure.

The cost will be astronomical - £3 million at least - but the Trust, undaunted, recently appointed a practising architect, Robert Stiling, as appeals manager. He aims to attract sponsorship from firms keen to have their names associated with the house, and hopes that day courses will become acceptable as events for people pursuing their own Continued Professional Development.

The mansion is of burning interest to architects, for its unfinished interior displays Victorian huilding methods in a way that can he seen

in stone working techniques. Yet a visit leaves one astonished by the house's impracticality. Although Bucknall prescribed numerous ventilation shafts, he made no provision for central heating except in the chapel. The single lavatory is high up on the second floor. There is one hath, carved from a single block of stone. The kitchen is tiny, and a day's march from

the dining room. Luckily these deficiencies cause no inconvenience to the four rare species of bats which inhabit the brewery at the back of the house during summer and autumn. So highly thought-of are these, the only residents, that English Nature pays the Trust about £1,500 a year as rent for their lodging.

> Enquiries to Robert Stiling, Woodchester Mansion Trust, Old Town Hall. Stroud, Glos GL5 1AP (01453 750455).

# Dress: formal. Result: disaster

Something strange happens when we are required to dress up. The more we spend, the worse we look. By Louise Levene

seem to have no sense of occasion wear. Send them a wedding invitation and normally well-dressed women will throw money at something in emerald green with shoulder pads. Stipulate "black tie" and sober suited men will truss themselves into noisy brocade cummerbunds. The nation's wedding photographs are a testament to bad taste and bad spending.
It could be genetic. There could

be some deep, inborn reason why British women look less chic the more imortant the occasion and the more they lavish on the outfit. Ladies Day at Ascot, the wedding pages of Hellot and Debenham's over from Alexon. changing room all provide ample

opportunity for hilarious disbelief. Men don't really bave this problem. Largely because there is far less latitude in what they can wear to functions. You may not always approve of his ties, but you won't catch Tony Blair in a turquiseedge-to-edge jacket. A suit is a suit. unlikely to look ridiculous in the wedding photos. This is the special prerogative of the bride's mother. The strain of wedding arrange-

ments seems to send an otherwise. sensible woman into a tailspin of panic that leaves them gasping for breath in Selfridges designer department clutching a black and yellow geometric two-piece with orange piping. More depressing still, Brides magazine calculates that the whole shebang will have cost her an average of £300. And she'll probably never wear it again.

Susie Faux, owner of the London shop Wardrobe, which prides itself on giving advice to the serious clothes bound, doesn't blame the this year. Twenty years ago it was shopper. They're shopping in the the frilly white blouse and black wrong shops," she asserts, somewhat predictably. "A lot of people drinks parties of the middle classes. will tend to go to department stores. There is never any advice for formal occasions and people either underdress or overdress."

Maybe it's lack of example. The only women in public life orting distinctive of wear are TV presenters and Members of their tangerine. Black is slimming Parliament - and their dress sense and it doesn't show the dirt (crucial is virtually interchangeable. Sar-torially, there is nothing to stop Joan Ruddock becoming a weath-dry cleaning: America spends four Joan Ruddock becoming a weath-ergirl and Suzanne Charlton tak-times as much). ing over as shadow spokesman on environmental protection. The the black dress is a big fan. "The little black dress is the best thing paintbox palette favoured by that ever happened to women. women in the public eye features Yes, but isn't it just a teensy bit so far as to allow a white tie with bigh on Susie Faux's hit list: boring? "It's never mattered for a dinner coat," he frets. Tell that "Bright colours should be saved for men's tuxedos. If only women to Chris Eubank.

hy do the British dress somewhere where it's hot. They could get to that position." up so badly? Famous for tend to show that a woman's our sense of occasion we unconfident. They're saying I'm

not sure that you'll look at me unless I wear a bright colour'."

Clearly, few MPs have availed themselves of Ms Faux's advice. The gaily coloured, boxy collarless jacket (a tailoring dodge presumably dreamed up by someone who couldn't cut their way out of a paper bag) was pioneered by Mrs Thatcher after her makeover by Aquascutum in 1987. Ever since, the only female MP who looks as if she has got up, opened the cupboard, chosen some clothes and slipped them on is Virginia Bottomley. Virtually everyone else looks as if their wardrobe for the day was biked

The Fuchsia Jacket Syndrome, exemplified by Harriet Harman reaches its glorious apotheosis in Teresa Gorman, Mrs Gorman, wbose daywear can be summarised as Escada-a-go-go, clearly approaches every day in the optimistic belief that she will receive a last-minute invitation to It might not fit very well, but it's a bar-mitzvah in Barnet. This may also explain why Margaret Beckett always looks as if she's just had a run in with a bag of Dolly Mixtures. But at least she is in no danger

of bumping into someone dressed the same. This proverbial sartorial embarrassment occurred repeatedly at this summer's weddings as fashion victim after fashion victim fell prey to the candied charms of the little pink suit. Some of the more fashionable nuptials looked like a Barhie doll convention. This collective unintelligence manifests itself periodically in social fashions and the herd instinct is particularly strong velvet jacket that upholstered the Today it's that sleeveless security blanket The Little Black Dress. Every season, designers announce the death of black and the birth of, say, tangerine and every season the buying public listens politely then tells them where they

The little black dress has its ori-

gins in Parisian thrift. In theory its tasteful anonymity will blind your acquaintance to the fact that you wear the same ebony sack to every festive gathering. The soignée look its wearers have in mind would be all well and good if they were only willing to spend a few bob on their hair. Sadly, the typical Englishwoman's idea of a hairdo is to shampoo it.

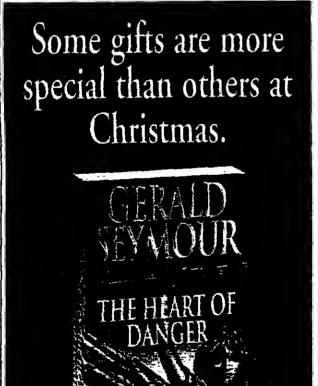
Such habitual parsimony characterises the Englishwoman's wardrobe. Susie Faux is merciless in her condemnation of cheap clothes: "You can always tell a cheaper jacket. People who think you can just change the huttons don't know anything about clothes "Ms Faux doesn't reckon you can buy a decent evening dress for a penny less than £500, Sorry I asked.

Menswear can be cheaper. Alan Bennett, an old school Savile Row tailor, reckons that £350 would be the absolute bottom line for an off-the-peg dinner suit. He would, of course, rather you let him make it. This would set you back around £1250 but, unlike most little black dresses, the result would last between 10 and 20 years. Black tie is enjoying something of a renaissance but white tie and tails is in serious decline, Expensive, seldom required and hemmed around by rules and regulations, the unpopularity of the old soup-and-fish is bardly surprising. Hardy Amies' unwitting comedy classic The Englishman's Suit is very strict on the matter: "It is not elegant to wear a wristwatch with tails. Sensitive men who lack a "dress" watch keep their wristwatches in a waistcoat pocket". No wonder white tie parties have become virtually obsolete.

Black tie supposedly allows more "scope for individuality" but this is usually just a euphemism for the hideous waistcoats and how ties that accompany it. Hardy Amies will have none of this: "You simply cannot wear a scarlet satin tie; it is overwhelmingly 'naff'. Nor may you wear any coloured or any patcan stick terned lie." reaches its nadir at awards ceremonies. Hugh Grant manages to behave himself but British style gurus are Outraged as star after star twinkles by in Nehru jackets. black shirts, polo necks ... Let's hope Hardy Amies isn't watching. The young can bave their fling, but the fling should not go







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Any print with flowers bigger than your head German clothes (Escada nr Laurel)

Sleewless dresses – the upper arms is often rather a grey area at this time of year Anything with a slit up the back

Remember If it takes that much hairspray, you haven't had it cut properly
Try to imagine how you will feel about the
photos in 10 years' time
Men, ask yourself: Do I look like a professional

snooker player? If so, ditch the waistcoat Women, ask yourself: 'Would Teresa Gorman/ Paula Yates wear this? If the answer is yes, stay at home

the thing about...

### The V&A shop

rism that results in the deaths of millions at Norwegian spruces every year? Have you dragged your prey into the living room, taken the paint off the door jambs and scattered needies across the shag-pile where they will defy the Hoover for months?

Good, But it's looking a bit bare just standing there, isn't it? All that green must look rather spartan among the knick-knacks and the cards on the mantelpiece. What you need is some baubles. Many people head for Woolworths or the market and stock up with a job-lot for a fiver. Get the kids to sling them up, sing a couple of carols and bobsleigh's your uncle.

Or, of course, there is a higher plane of Yuletide decor, and it can be found at the V&A.

The thing about the Victoria and Albert Museum is that nobody can fault the taste. The place is stuffed to its elegant rafters with shiny things and curlicues and silverware worthy of gold lozenge five inches deep (£6.50)

ave you bought your tannenbaum vet? Have you gone through that victorian ritual of cultural plagia-weary public. And its shop is one of the most impressive in the country, arousing lust in all who cross its threshold. Christmas at the V&A shop is a bygone dream. The central aisle is given over to the things you put on Christmas trees: those dangly, spangly and generally OTT evidences that rococo is alive and living in our hearts.

These are the glass balls, plaster cherubs, antiqued gold acoms, silken tassels, patterned boxes, crackers, trumpeting angels and spun-silk confections that hang on trees in, say, a Merchant Ivory production of Flambards. They go with spiced wine in tiny silver cups, children from the village singing God Rest Ye Meny Gentlemen and the entire servants' hall lining up for their Christmas boxes.

And they are objects that only the artistic rich will buy. Only the artistic rich have the kinds of houses that won't look tawdry by these evidences



needs a tree at least 10ft tall to carry it, which in turn dictates higher-thanaverage ceilings. Rows of cherubs plucking on harps and blowing on pan pipes don't really go with Ikea scat-

ing and fitted carpets.

More important, though, are the costs involved. The thing about the V&A Christmas decorations is that Tempted by decorations at the Victoria & Albert shop Photo: Kalpesh Lathigra

they'll set you back a groat or two. I'm not saying that they're bad value for money - these are seriously gorgeous examples of their type - but the cheapest item, a robin with real feathers, costs 75p, and those velvet-andhrocade-covered balls run to £6.50.

A red-and-gold dressed Morgana le Fey-style fairy retails at the hum-hugging price of £37.50, A five-minute trolley dash could easily leave you with little change from £300, and this for fripperies which will he used for three weeks a year and half of which will emerge mysteriously broken from the attic next winter. Then again, those dangling cherubs with musical instruments (£1.25-£2.25) would look lovely hanging from bushes in your garden in summer, and the cardboard boxes covered in medieval tapestry scenes are terrific for reducing toddlers to tears. Go, enjoy, wish you were rich and maybe buy a jolly linle putto for the bathroom.

Serena Mackesy

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# If it fails the test, the teddy bear gets it

In a warehouse in Wembley, men in white coats are abusing cuddly toys in the name of safety. By Karen Falconer

gent elves, men and little hammers in laboratories: setting light tn a teddy here, dropping a lead weight on a plastic aeroplane there, dipping paint scrapings into chemical concoctions. They have no magical powers, sleighs or reindeer, hut nonetheless they're doing an essential job to make Christmas

These are the modern Father Christmas helpers, the technologists and trading standards officers who check toys to ensure that they don't escape the rigorous safety measures now in place in both Europe and much of the rest of the world, including Hong

Kong and China.

All year round they visit factories, laboratories and retail outlets in Britain and the Far East. But the run up to Christmas is the time they have to be particularly attentive, for 55 per ceot, or over £800m worth, of all the new toys sold each year leap from the shelves within just a few weeks. And, as the rush rises and popular toys become temporarily extinct, so the chance of inferior. or eveo dangerous, products slipping through the net increases.

lt's when the mainstream retailers under-order for peak periods that problems emerge.

ar from Lapland and Last year the high street ran out Father Christmas's diliof Power Rangers as what had women in white coats are became all the rage. Immediately, poor quality fakes flooded on to market stalls and shops set up specially to profit from the Christmas rush.

Too often, at least according to their high-street competitors, these toys are substandard and may not conform to the strict regulations on safe play, inflamma bility and toxicity.

When I visited the SGS laboratory on a dark industrial estate in the Wembley area, I was expecting to see hordes of toys stacked in piles around the place. Instead, I found a series of laboratories more like a school science lah than a toy workshop, with inconspicuous testing equipment such as a heavy weight oo a metal pipe under which toys were placed to see how easily they'd crush. The under-threes plastic truck didn't even creak as t was pounded by the umpteen-

kilogram weight.

As a highlight, I was looking forward to seeing a teddy bear hurst into flames. Instead, the £4.99 teddy from Woolworth's simply singed as the lighter hurst simply singed as the lighter burnt away at it. It didn't even drip hot plastic. The idea of combing a soft toy with a metal detector also came as a surprise. But a piece



ient child - and the producer.

At every stage the processes are finnicky and time-consuming. One man has been doing the tests for lead cooteot io paints for 10 years. He sits at a machine, with scalpel in hand, scrapes off the paint, theo dips it into a chemi-cal solution. If there's too mucb lead, the colour changes. As it oeeds careful monitoring, it's impossible to automate the process. "We've offered him other jobs," said the floor man-ager, "hut although he's very intelligent and intellectual, he's happy to keep doing this one -and he does it incredibly well."

Another test is that for small parts, in which pieces of a toy are dropped into a throat-sized metal tube to see whether they would of broken needle from a machine hlock a child's windpipe. But, ing out of teddies. Then they can mean disaster for the recipthere are other potential probused to be fitted glass on a metal

lems to identify: inferior quality stuffings in soft toys, traditionally one of the most problematic areas: infected water in water toys; had quality plastics; wheels in battery-powered cars that might trap or take off a child's finger. The list is long.

Each year there are around 1,000 reported toy accidents – hut experts insist that most of these have nothing to do with the toy itself, hut are related to leaving a car where someooe will trip oo it, or falling with a doll in hand and poking out an eye. Today's fears, they insist, are based oo experiences 30 years old. "A 1955 oewspaper cutting," says Ian Scott, vice president of the British Toys and Hohby Associatioo "talks about the eyes comstem, dipped in glue and stuck in. Now they're locked in with a washer behind. Regulations are becoming so tight now, it's got to point where it's really silly: before long, the way things are going, it will be a case of toys ould be seen and oot heard."

Whether that's true or oot, it is beyond dispute that some toys do slip through the safety nets. Particularly wheo mooey is tight (the toy trade is notoriously slack this year), consumers take more risks and huy away from reputable outlets. A spokesman for the British Standards Institute said that sometimes retailers will report competitors selling inferior goods. "Companies spend a lot of money on making sure that other people's products pass the grade," be said, "The higgest form of policing is self-policing. Competitors shop people." Bernard Buckley, quality shop competitors." he said, and

related a tale about a toy he

failed recently oo grounds of

toxicity. "The toy was over the lead limit but I can't tell you what toy it was because someone else Mr Buckley, like other major toy players, is keen to point out how thorough his company's checks are, "We visit Hong Kong twice a year, following the buyers around," he said. "We discuss our findings and any need to

approval. We review the product and then get a revised sample." In additioo, hig retailers and manufacturers normally employ a

modify a new product. The factory

third-party safety agency like SGS to keep a regular eye on the factory, including spot checks when most of the product has been packed. "That way we don't ship 30,000 toys only to find them unacceptable when they arrive," said Mr Buckley. Naturally, not every single toy is checked, but if 100 out of 3,000 are checked, the law of probability suggests that the rest should be safe.

Without a doubt, as hig husiesses controls more and more of the toy industry, there's less and less room for shoddy goods. But, while there's any risk, it's worth watching out for quality criteria recognised by the trade: the European Union's CE mark and the latest mark of authenticity: the British Association of Toy Retailers' little green sticker saying 'Approved Lion Mark Retailer'.

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## Have a politically correct Christmas

It's been the year of shaving Ken, ethnic Barbies and the wheelchair doll. By Sally Williams

t's been a good year for dolly that more and more compaminorities. Take men dolls, for example. Ken had previously always beeo just Mr Barbie - Barbie's partner at the ball, Barbie's groom at Barbie's wedding. But now Ken is a doll in his own right as Shaving Fun Ken and Baywatch Ken.

And theo there are the black Barbies. Tropical Splash Christie (intended to be African-American, but actually looking Polynesian) hit the scene this year, complete with tropical flower bikini, and some Tropical Splash friends including Teresa (Hispanic) and Kiera (Asian).

Toys that reflect racial and sexual diversity are oot new. Sasha multi-ethnic dolls were popular in the Seventies and Barhie's first hlack friend, Francie, was launched in 1967. Black dolls may not be news, but, says David Coombs, editor of Toy Trader, hut the fact

nies are oow pushing politically correct lines, is. Parents wanting to wish

their children a Politically Correct Christmas this year can choose, among others: Sindy's first hlack friend, Crimp & Bead Imani launched this August by Hasbro; the only wheelchair doll - the Little Tikes Wheelchair, Ramp and Friend; a hlack "drink and wet" baby doll, Aysha, or a soft bodied hlack baby boy doll. Junior, both recently launched by Hunter Toys. There's also an updated version of Subbuteo, the footballing game, which now includes three hlack players per team.

Eveo the aggressive Power Rangers are, in fact, according to David Coombs, "very right on," and not just because they eat in a health food bar.

whites. Childreo watching will wide range of races - and that has to be positive."

According to David Coombs, the same is true of Pocahootas. "Thanks to Pocabootas, children are oow identifying with a Native American Indian." Critics may argue that . the doll looks as much like a American Indian as Naomi Campbell, hut, says Dave Coombs: "Dolls are aspirational. They depict the person the little girl would like to be. or the person she would like as ber friend. Black Barbie may oot look like a real black person, but who looks like the

hlonde, blue-eyed Barbie?"
Nevertheless, a desire to reflect a changing society is what motivates some toy manis Asian, two of the boys are PC toys. "We just helieve problack, and yet the boys do the ducing dolls like Aysha and become a school teacher.

Good thing

Mad thing

Vac-Man is the

arch-enemy of

from the US

Vac-Man, about £28,99

Stretch Armstrong,

same as the girls; and the Junior is a healthy thing to do," hlacks do the same as the said Jimmy Hunter; managing director of Hunter toys. Retailideotify with both sexes and a ers like John Lewis, Hamleys and Toys R Us agree, hut Hunter said more rural outlets can't see the point. "If you live in Forfar, Scotland, you're not going to come across too many Asians or West Indians. It's not that people are racist, it's just that they doo't think about it."

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The Lambaria

This is ooe of the reasons why hlonde Lucy sells better than Aysha, and why Tropical Splash Christie only accounts for 10 per cent of the Tropical Splash range. A couple of years ago Hasbro was forced to withdraw a black Action Man, due to poor sales, so the future for Imani could be bleak.

Not so for Barbie. Mattel has big plans for her in 1996. Perhaps the most radical of all is not the black Baywatch Barbie, He explains: "One of the girls ufacturers to produce more hut the fact that shop-till-youdrop, disco-dancing Barbie is to



### **Bestsellers** Top 10 items sold at The Leading Edge

bazaar

If you are one of those people who gives their friends useless gadgets for Christmas, look no further than your nearest The Leading Edge shop or mail-order catalogue. These were their best-selling products last month-

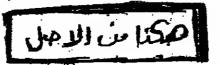
Miracle thaw defrosting tray	99
Mini shiatsu massager	£29 <b>99</b>
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FM Sounds mini radio (world's smallest)	£79 99
Tsubo massager (uses heat and vibration)	£149.99
Voice organiser 1024K	£159 99
Living Reef fish tank (with electric fish).	£49 99
Bottle pal (bottle cooler)	PP 43
Plasticard torch (the world's thinnest)	£4.99
O Keylight keyring	£14,99

cartoon strip. After pumping the air out, his red rubber body can be extended to strange and disgusting lengths, turning him with one deeply therapeutic wrench from a Henry Moore to a Giacometti. Then simply press the vacuum release button on the side of his head and he shrinks back to "normal". The instructions warn against "excessive abuse" hut the Independent did manage to puncture its Vac-Man almost immediately. However any damage can be repaired and it should be ooted that stiletto heels were involved ... From Argos,

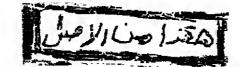
Toys R Us, Hamleys or any good toy shop SPECIAL OFFER: A free Vac-Man to the first 10 Independent readers to send a postcard bearing the name of Stretch Armstrong's canine companion to Vac-Man competition, Weekend Dept, The

Independent, Canary Wharf, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL.





shopping



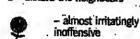
# The good games guide

They can make the difference between peace on earth and Christmas hell. Chris Maslanka tests this year's offerings

uying a game is a serious business. Care should be exercised, especially when dealing with the expensive kind: after all, you can't always see what you're getting. Too often much of what should have been spent on the inside of the box has been spent on the outside, and the instructions seem to have been written by out-of-work video manual writers.

The other danger is the effect they can have on your guests. Christmas is a stressful time. People are thrown together, and games, like group therapy - can bring out the worst. My parents used to end up pelting each other with plates and mince pies over Monopoly - only when I was older did I realise this was not part of the rules. So consider carefully: your choice of game could make the difference between peace of earth and an almighty ding-dong.

Noise levels: q - quiet, n - noisy, d - disturb the neighbours





- have a Relate

Verbal and communicative skills are life skills, so games involving them can be particularly stressful. In Scattergories (MB Games, £24.99, two to six players, age 10+) you have to race against the clock to think up things beginning with a letter turned up on . a 20-sided die and belonging to a given category. The 144 categories include things that are sticky, things found in the fridge and famous females. (Rating: q, 4)
ASAP (Lagoon Games, £4.99, two

or more players, age 8 to adult) runs on similar principles. There are two piles of cards, one of letters and one of subjects. The first to call out an answer wins the category card, the

Pocket Junior Scrabble (Spear's, £9.25, two to four players, ages 5-10) is a neat little pocket-size travel pack of the well-known game so often spoilt by adults who have memorised long lists of weird threeletter words like dzo. The magnetic board contains two games, one of. them Scrabble with a simplified system of scoring and the other a game matching letters. (Rating: q. ?)
Outburst! (Parker, £34.99, two

as people compete to yell out names of things belonging to an announced category. If what you yell out isn't on the marker's list tough luck, it doesn't count. Being the marker's not easy and people are always claiming they yelled something you never heard.

(Rating: d, ) Taboo (M&B, £23.99, four or more players) is like charades but without the physical embarrassment. You have to explain to your team a word on a card without using certain specified key words. When I played it the women were better at it and the men resented it. (Rating: d, 🗨 🗨)

In Pictionary (Parker, £29.25, three to 16 players, age 12 to adult) you draw pictures to try and communicate a word to your team. Can get very noisy especially if the team



Giant Mousie Mousie: the mice squeak when you hit them with the dusthin lid

Marble Maze (Lagoon Games.

tifully boxed set of tiny glass marbles

and woodeo pieces which can be

arranged into simple or complicated runs. Danny enjoyed the Starter Set

hut I wished we'd been testing one

of the two larger sets. Ordinary size

Little horrors liked the noisiness

of Atmosfear, The Harbingers

should undo any good done by the

spelling games. (Rating d. ...)
Pro Action Football (Parker.

£29.45, two or more players, age 8+)

is a great improvement on Subbutco.

In Subbuteo you had to flick roly-

poly players to move the ball. The

ball. In this game you twiddle the

on the head to make him kick the

ball. The harder you bang, the fur-

ther the hall goes. Soccer managers

did his dad, a football referee. (Rat-

ing: q.@)
Ask Zandar (M&B Games, £34.95,

age 9+; hatteries not supplied) is

designed for little girls. Wave your

hands over the electronic genie and

he answers your questions. The American spelling and orientation of

the questions (Will I go to the prom

with a geek?) didn't put Julie off, but

sense irrespective of context. I was

relieved to find she didn't believe the

genie was really answering her ques-

ers used to fly further than the

marbles do-not fit. (Rating q. 9)

make a sound, so you had to keep an eye on it. (Rating d. ?)

Poserbility (Paul Lamond, £14.99, four or more players in two teams, age 8+) was easy to follow and the timer had a ooisy bell. A "sculptor" in each team arranges members of the opposite team in a positioo depicting what it says on a card and their own team has to guess what is being depicted. Much fun and hilarity. By picking out cards beforehand it would be a good children's party game, too. (Rating: d. ?).

QUIZZES

The king of quizzes must surely he Trivial Pursuit in its many guises, of one with the most cards wins. Unfor- which Genus III (Parker Games, tunately, in my experience, the same £33.99, two to six players) is the latperson wins all the time - the fastest. est. The word "trivial" is a clue to its success. You needn't feel threatened if you don't know the answer. And don't forget you can always tell the sad character who always wins that knowledge mustn't he confused with intelligence. (Rating: q, ••)
Too many of the lateral thinking

puzzles forming the hasis of Mindtrap (Spear's, £17.99, two players or teams) are familiar old chestnuts. Although the whole basis of such puzzles is nitpiekiness, we found ourselves arguing over a couple of adult teams) was noisy and chaotic the answers which were clearly wrong. For the newcomer, however, it might prove fun as it is a comprehensive collection of lateral puzzles.

(Rating: q. 44) Soccer Trivia Quiz (Lagoon Games, £4.99, two players or teams, age 7 to adult) has delightful footballogical questions. A real trivia question is one which is factual, offbeat and whose answer has no possible significance other than to amuse. Which Scottish football result does an announcer dread most? (Answer: Forfar four - East Fife five!) (Rat-

Race Around Britain (Ravensburger, £19.99, two to six players, age 8-adult) and Explore Europe (Ravenshurger, £19.99, two to six players, age 10 to adult) use geography as a source of questions. Both

can't get it right! The timer didn't are educational without labouring £12.99, age 3+). Consists of a beauthe point and the children enjoyed playing. (Ratings: q. ?)

**MAINLY ADULTS** 

I pondered You Be The Judge (Spear's, £16.99, two players or teams, aged 12 to adult, ) with Judge Stephen Tumim. You have to secondguess the judgements of juries in cases whose key facts are given. Our learned judgement was that it wasn't always clear in what year and what part of the world the cases were being judged and therefore which laws applied. Unfortunately I suspect our legal system is still too arbitrary to form the hasis of a fair board

game. (Rating: q, ?) In Lottery (Paul Lamond, £9.99, two or more players, age 8+) skill and luck are employed to win £10 million in cash, then lose it. As in life. getting rid of it wasn't as easy as you'd expect. Danny (8) and Julie (9) got rather confused at the large sums involved and had difficulties grasping the principles at first but enjoyed playing as a family. (Rating: n. ?)

MAINLY CHILDREN

In Labyrinth (Ravensburger, £14.99, age 8+) a move alters the shape and connectivity of the maze. Beautifully crafted with high quality artwork, it should last, as should interest in it. Both ehildren and adults seem to find it intriguing. (Rating: q. ?)
Uno Stacks (Spear's, £6.99, two or

more players, age 8-adult). Plastic slabs stacked in layers of three to make a tower are rearranged according to the roll of a die. The first person who topples stack ends the game and the player on their left wins. Julie (9) and Danny (8) loved this game and played it over and over. (Rating: d. ?)

Giant Mousie Mousie (Spear's.

£8.99, two to five players, age 6adult) is even more fun that the original. The children gleefully dubbed it Ratty Ratty. The Mice squeak when hit with the dustbin lid and have detachable tails so they don't snap in rough play. A rowdy game of quick reactions. (Rating: d, )

would prove a nine-day wonder. (Rating n. 41 Not so the Barbie Dress Up Game

tions. Her mother assured me it

(£8.75, for two-four girls aged 5+). Before they discover boys and Take That. I was shocked to learn, some girls' tantasies revolve around Barhie dolls. The aim of this game is to win the most beautiful accessories to enhance your Barbie doll's glamorous outfit: shoes, handbag, necklace and hair slides. Given that the trinkets were little lumps of plastic I thought this was a loser. Not so. Julie loved it. Which only goes to show what I've known since I was a boy. that girls have great imaginations and had taste! (Rating n. ?)

**ADULTS ONLY** 

Adults have no problem with taste. They play adult games such as those in the Adult Drinking Games Compendium (Lagoon Games, £4.99, age 18+). This compendium of nine drinking games slips into the pocket for taking down the Dog and Duck. In case you've had a few you'll be relieved to know the games are easy to pick up. Toble Dibble and Fuzzy Duck were voted best. (Rating: d.@)
Pass Out (Paul Lamond, £15, two

to four players) is a game based on the lore of drinking (players having to read out tongue twisters when they land on pink elephants and so on). However, in case you think the game gives the wrong Christmas message. a disclaimer puts you straight: it says it is not intended to be played to the accompaniment of alcoholic beverages. Could be fun late on Boxing Day night or New Year's Eve at 12.15. (Rating: n. \$ )

**PUZZLES** 

Christmas can be too noisy and the soul needs quiet time for itself away from all the bonhomic and the interruptions of others pipping one at the post in competitive games. Bonding with a Rainhow Puzzle (Spears, £27.99, uge 12+) A creepy gatekeeper on video issues forfeits and rewards. The spelling of the title Ball (Funtime) in a quiet corner could be the answer. Rearranging the colour panels on its surface is supposed to massage the meridian points of your palms to soothe stress. I found 300 Tangrams (Lagoon Games, £10.99) more calming. The accompanying book of hundreds of patterns to make with the seven tiles is beautifully produced and has a timeless quality about it, but I did think the pieces player to orient him, then bang him ought to have been in a better material: (Rating: q. 2)

Jigsaws have always seemed to me a bit of a con. Someone cuts a picshould love it. Danny (8) loved it. as ture into lots of pieces and charges you to put it back together again. At least The Inspector Morse Mystery Jigsaw Puzzle eame (Paul Lamond Games, £ 8.99, teen to adult) has the ulterior motive of solving a detective mystery. Forensic foreplay consisted in assembling 550 pieces without the aid of picture or pathologist then scouring it for clues. It was all very realistic: I found Morse's conclusion then she's nine. The answers make just as unconvincing as on TV. If you don't like Morse there are versions involving Taggart and that new boy Cracker. (Rating: q. 2)

six of the bestselling toys this christmas



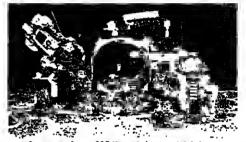
milk-bottle tops with cartoons on, and children swap



Princess Butterfly Barbie, from £17.99 Eight million Barbies are sold world-wide every year. Princess artly and Holiday Barbie are this season's hot tips



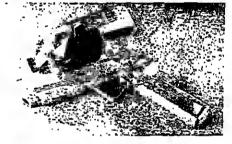
Bubba loo Bird, £9.95 A hairy puppet with nodding head reminiscent of Rod Hull's Emu. Guaranteed non-



changed since it consisted of little bricks and the odd



that morph into Protean superheroes botted from the Shops last Christmas but are still huge sellers



Sega Lock-On, from £29.99 (single) Cowboys and Oindians using lasers. Comprises head set and lock-on gun. Can be played indoors and out

Top-sellers in Hamley's and Toys R Us

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**AUCTIONS** 

Why is the Phillips sale on Tuesday going to be totally FAB?

Ahristmas is coming, and auction lots are becoming ever more festive. Two ink and watercolour Christmas cards by the cartoonist Norman Thelwell are at Sotheby's Sussex in Billingshurst, Tuesday (10.30am). One shows two little boys shouting to each across the road from their bedroom windows, each with a view of the other's parents wrapping presents in their sitting rooms. The caption is: "You're getting a tricycle, a jig-saw puzzle and a fire engine. What am I get-ting?" Estimate: £600-£800. Another Thelwell of one of his precocious young riders tipped over a snow-covered yule log by her popy is £500-£700.

The Billingshurst salerooms have 1,272 lots his week: prints, oils and watercolours on Tuesday, silver portrait miniatures, fans, vertu and jewellery on Wednesday (01403-783933)

How many more puppets of Thunderbirds Lady Penelope. her Cockney chauffeur Parker and their fabulous vehicles are waiting to be consigned to auction? Phillips' first, 100-lot sale of Thunderbirdiana, from the Sixties

series, fetched £115,000 in September. The Lady Penelope puppet feched £34,500. All were from the collection of one of the series' creators, Sylvia Anderson.

On Tuesday (12 noon), 70 more Thunderbirds lots come up at Phillips, this time from n variety of owners who gasped "FAB!" at the September sale's prices. The unique, nine foot original puppetscale model of Lady Penelope's pink Rolls Royce, FAB 1, built in 1966 for the film Thunderbirds Are Go!, is estimated £20,000-£30,000. In a commendably egalitarian gesture, Phillips has estimated the original puppets of Lady Penelope and Parker both at £15,000-£20,000. The Penelope puppet is "the other one" - only two are known to have survived.

mother man-made pet with an Hinstinct for survival is Mr Whoppit, the late Donald Campbell's mascot that floated to the surface of Lake Coniston when Campbell's record-breaking speedboat Bluebird disintegrated at 300mph in 1967, killing him. Its estimate, as part of the Campbell archive in Christie's South Kensington's sale of teddy bears (Mon-BBC television science fiction day), is £50,000-£60,000. You can

still buy a German Steiff bear for £120-£140.

Tilm posters make exciting Christmas presents. No need to pay tens of thousands for an early King Kong poster: Christie's film and entertainment sale. Thursday (10.30am) estimates an RKO King Kong at £500-£700. It is, of course, for a 1940s re-release. No one need know.

There are plenty of cast-offs from film sets. While watching Octopussy and Moonraker you may or may not have spotted the dozeo jumpsuits, basketball boots and socks that are estimated £200-£300 the lot in the sale. The same estimate is on two blueprint drawings for Star Wars, one of the much-loved R2D2 robot.

At £300-£500, a 6th century BC Grecian style crested helmet, made for Sean Connery in Time Bandits (1981), is still by no means as desirable as the real thing: the 6th century BC Greek bronze helmet of the same design in Sothehy's sale of antiquities, Thursday (10.30am), is est £18,000-£22,000.



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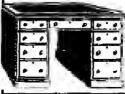
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<u>ADMBPAN</u>

Jasper Rees joins 18 million viewers for the soap's first hour-long outing

noes anyone actually believe the television ratings? They seem to be counted by a method that is at once technologically mindboggling and comically primitive. The power surge measured by the National Grid at the end of a popular programme tells them that "x" million cups of tea were hrewed as soon as the credits rolled. How do they calculate in a heat wave, when audiences have recourse to libations that don't come out of a kettle?

This necro-scientific headcounting technique claims a week-in, week-out audience for Coronation Street that oscillates either side of 18 million. That's more than one Briton in three, which is a lot of Britons. It's a professional risk to confess it, but your correspondent belongs to the 34 million whose movements at 7.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday cannot be traced. But last night was its first hour-long episode in 35 years - not including the two halfhours that were glued together not long ago to do head-to-head hattle with the rescheduled EastEnders (OK, I had to do some homework). So like it or not, Coronation Street is up for

The 18 million are prohably so far in that they no longer know nor care whether what they're watching merits enslavement. But coming to it fresh, yes, let's he honest, you can see what all the fuss is about. Of course, heing an anniversary edition it may have set snares for virginal prey: for the red carpet of an anniversary dou-ble edition, the storyline was presumably richer, the narrative rhythm more deep-hreathing. But the welcome felt genuine, though not overdone, as it should in any good puh.

The road lest that a soap has to pass is simple: can passengers leap on to the moving vehicle? Whether they want to stay on is of secondary relevance. Within a few lines of dialogue last night the complicated sexual arrangements past and present of several characters had been explained to the Martian newcomer. Des looked particularly active in this department. "If I was getting any more, Jack," he hragged to a hloke called, er, Jack, "I'd have to take a lad on." Last night, Dirty Des used slightly less prac-

tical language to parlay a path into the underwear of the waxen goddess Raquel, who felt so wronged by this wrong'un that she was married on the rebound hy Friday. Is it safe to assume the show's not this pacey every episode?

The happy groom is Curly, who has "loser" written all over his pehble lenses. He is presumably so called because one day they knew they would be able to use last night's most phonetically jarring line: "Curly, you're early."

After an hour in their company you feel you've got the measure of these characters. And they must be as fascinating as they seem, because 18 million people can't all be wrong. They can't he immortal either: for every three Britons who pop their clogs, *The Street* loses one viewer. And that's not counting all the emigrations that happen to real people just as much as surplus soap characters. So like a deep lake out of which water is constantly trickling the out of which water is constantly trickling, the audience is in need of perpetual replenishment. It's a very attractive proposition. But a lifetime commitment? Not sure I'm ready for it yet.

### **MUSIC** Barry Douglas Series, Wigmore Hall, London

The Belfast-born pianist proves that he's as much at home in chamber music as in those big concertos. By Anthony Payne



Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

home in the more intimate and civilised world of chamber mu-sic, although there is hardly a concerto that does not need chamher music skills at some point. Barry Douglas certainly possesses those skills, and his chamber series at the Wigmore Hall opened on Wednesday with a taxing and wide-ranging programme of vi-olin sonatas in which he partnered the equally impressive Raphael Oleg, first prize-winner at the 1986 Tchaikovsky competition.

Both players possess strong interpretative personalities, and during the first half there was a certain amount of jockeying for position as each sought to reconcile his individual perceptions with ensemble requirements. The art of chamber music playing, in which individuality must not be sacrificed, yet must take account of the contributions of others, poses the subtlest of problems, both human and musical, and increasingly Douglas and Oleg came to terms with themselves and the music as the evening progressed.

So many recital programmes adopt chronological principles opening with a classical item, which often suffers by being used as a warm-up exercise, and progressing through the romantics to the moderns. So the players' reversal of the process here was in itself refreshing. They started with Poulenc's Sonata and immediately arrested our attention by plunging into its turbulent world with no regard for personal safety. The work's hitter and even tragic impetus is intimately bound up with the shooting of Garcia Lorca, and its alternation of protest and nocturnal impressions drew a passionate response from both players. If there

lot all successful concerto pianists prove themselves equally at was a sense that each was a little too obsessed with his own part, this gave the interpretation a particularly intense profile, and Poulenc's dislocated final cadence fell perfectly into place.

The Elgar Sonata also drew whole-hearted playing, and the ten-dency for nobly affirmative lyricism to withdraw into exquisitely inward fancy and regret was fully appreciated. Each player brought an intense perceptiveness to bear but, as in the Poulenc, there was sometimes the feeling that the emotional ebb and flow was not quite synchronised. And it was not until Brahms's A major Sonata that these two outstanding players aligned their insights in a per-fectly integrated performance. Somehow from the very outset, with Douglas's wonderfully warm piano sonority and natural impulse underpinning Oleg's freely expanding cantabile, things felt right.

This was indeed an interpretation to recall with joy. The complexities, intimacies and far from unclouded serenity were su-perbly articulated, and the duo's high form was carried through into a vigorous and majestic reading of Beethoven's Sonata in E tlat, Op 12 No 3. The sheer newness of Beethoven's cast of thought, as it must have seemed at the close of the 18th century, was re-created in the freshness of Douglas's and Oleg's approach. The grandeur of the Adagio drew playing of complete single-mindedness, and the finale's characteristic hrand of high spirits generated an irresistible impetus.

Barry Douglas joins London Winds and Michael Collins, clarinet, tomorrow 4pm, Wigmore Hall, London W1 (0171-935 2141)

### Van Morrison in Conversation

Well, more of a sort of inarticulate speech of the heart, really. By Phil Johnson

The jokes are too easy. Van Morrison talking about his work, talking about his work, talking about his work as part of the Closing Festival for the UK Year of Literature and Writing It was often all a resumplifications and Writing It was often all a resumplifications and Writing It was often all a resumplifications. ing. It was, after all, a very unlikely concept: Van the man has been known to go whole concerts. whole years even, without speaking to his audience. The idea of him engaging in a little light chit-chat about his motives and methods just about beggared belief. His whole career, you could argue, has been built on silence, exile and cunning as well as a formidable body of music and lyrics that singularly defy interpretation.

The pre-concert stage furniture consisted of two overstuffed armchairs - on loan, one imagined from World of Leather - set down in front of the drum kit as if to represent a little domestic vignette awaiting the likes of George Best and Rodney Marsh. The routine was to be an intimate interview session with the poet Gerald Dawe – an old Belfast schoolchum of Morrison's - asking the questions. They arrived on stage to considerable applause, Dawe tall and academic looking and Van dressed in dark clothes and sporting a full Bobby Charlton.

Where, Dawe hegan, do you get your ideas for songs or poems?" "Well," said Van, "books, newspapers, dreams, there's no set thing." So far, so clear, and when Dawe established the fact of Morrison's father's personal lihrary of nothing hut Wild West novels, he had, you thought, hit a resonant chord. Just think of all those Zane Grey hardback covers offering up a virtual world of tumbleweed, cactus and deep mauve sunsets for the imagination of the young Belfast cowboy? But Dawes was, it hecame clear, somewhat fixated on Yeats (the poet, not the wine lodge), and the more he probed about the great WB's influence, the more Van, who had begun with what was for him incredible openness, became increasingly recessive. Yes, he said. Yeats was one of his influences, but he had written over a hundred songs before he got round to reading him.

The conversation by now more and more reliant on Dawe's prompts, then got around to fillums. Yes, Van said, fillums were important, Brando especially. Then Dawe changed horses suddenly to land thumpingly on Blake. By now the questions were arriving with a whole queue of subordinate clauses, with Van reduced to surly "Uh-huh" for the answer. "It's like Mutt and Jeff" Dawe conceded before they agreed to an adjournment.

The following concert answered some of the questions more eloquently than Van himself. In a rare live outing for his classic "Madame George" - arguably the best popular song of the century - the most affecting line goes: "the love that loves to love the glove, loves the glove."
What, you thought, can you say about that, except
that, in the cadences of Morrison's eccentric diotion, it assumes a power that on the dead white carapace of the page, can never be revealed. Yeats of course, must have a word for it.

The UK Year of Literature Closing Festival runs to 21 Dec, Ty Llen, Somerset Place, Swansea (01792 652211)







David Harrower's sensual and compelling tale of a 16th-century woman's journey towards love via the power of language in Philip Howard's production from Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre.

Robert Hanks praised its "unusual assurance, wit and intelligence... Harrower is a name to watch,"

"The company are clearly inspired as much as we are stimulated," cheered Time Out. "With astonishing economy Harrower conjures up a world

of drudgery, fear and superstition. Howard directs with great skill," applauded the Guardian. "A

THE PLAY KNIVES IN HENS

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT

Michael Douglas is a popular Democrat President In election year who starts dating Annette Bening in Rob Reiner's timely contady about the personal lives of those in public office.

Adam Mars-Jones felt the slick direction "keeps things spinning along either because he doesn't see the pitfalls... or because he does." "When Harry ... Truman met Salty - a little pat," observed the Guardian: "Rob Reinar's feetgood movia exudes so much sympathy, if sweats," sneared Time Out: "The film starts slowly and rarely picks up much speed... this soft boring film," concluded the Times.

Softi conducted the LSO in a Barrok series inclinitive.

Bluebeard's Castle with Laszle Polger and Julia
Varady, the tilanic Second Bland Consolte and the
Sonata for two planes and pencussion.

THE CONCERT

SOLTI CONDUCTS BARTON

The concerts are over first buy Sour's Buiebeard's Castle, or walf for the forthcoming Poniez lecenting with Laszlo Polger and Jessye Norman.

Bartok novices and fans should imple Sold's recording of the Concerto for Orchestra or the Music for Strings, Percussion

### THE CHRISTIMAS SHOW THE UNGLESHOOM





DEADLY

KEY

our view

overview

critical view

genuinely original evening," admitted the Times. At the Bush Theatre, London W12 (0181-743 3388) on view

> This tightly-structured 80minute piece is the theatrical



After Fatal Attraction, Basic Instinct and Disclosure, this is the movie in which Michael . Douglas keeps his clothes on (Saints be praised.)

On general release.





wrong tack, in retrospect."

"What did she say?" I ask. "She said," (Steve adopts a seductive French accent), "I am not a horror queen anymore. I am now a tennis queen. I love to

play ze game of tennis'."
"So did you say that you were each other's racquets?" asks a short man from the back. "Joined together in a union of... um... tennis... um... I can't think of a joke. Damn."

"He's a script writer," explains Steve. "He wrote Seven Seas of Gore. He's always trying to come

The scriptwriter's name is Alex L'Occitane: "I don't just write horror," he says. "I've written comedy, surrealism, actionadventure - and I once wrote a powerful psychological thriller called The Geiger Counter about an entire family struck down by radiation poisoning, and they slowly turn into mutants. Growing extra heads, you know. Body Horror. Like The Fly. But all set in Bristol."

"It was great," says Steve. "But we couldn't get funding. Warner Brothers said it was too shocking and original."

"Bastards," says Alex.



I was offering her a part in 'Groin' and tried a bit of allure

Mo I said to her: 'Listen Swoman, your life is my life.
Your blood is my blood. We are joined together in a union of darkness, and there is no escaping. We are bonded in our strange journey to the creative majesty of Hell.' And you know what she said to me?"

"What?" I ask. "She said: 'I'm sorry. What did you say your name was again?" "
"Oh God. How big did that

make you feel?" "This hig," says Steve, pressing his finger and thumb together. "It made me feel as big as the heroes in The Terror of Tiny Town."

Everyone roars with laughter at this, except me, for I have never seen the film and have thus missed out on a patently marvellous horror movie joke.

"They're very small," explains
Steve "Midgets. It's a midget
movie." "Aah," I chuckle. We are sitting in the corner of "the ambient room" of a small central London suite of offices

and screening facilities. This is not always the amhient room - it becomes apparent when one's eyes get accustomed to the amhient half-light. It is usually the photocopying room. But they've draped a large, pink

cobweh over the photocopier, and n slightly smaller pink cobweh over the fax/ modem, and now 30 horror movie geeks/ actors/ directors are swapping stories about the day they med Ellen Bancroft, a bit-part actress from the Seventies who appeared in Dracula's Dog (aka Zolian, Hound of Dracula), and also Dracula has Risen from the

This is the Screaming Blue Murder pre-Christmas party. Screaming Blue Murder being a production company for very low-budget horror (Screaming), sex (Blue) and horror (Murder)

movies. They have only been in hlood. But it was simply the operation for six months, and their roster is, consequently, slightly limited to date.

Fist, Your Groin, and a Far Eastern sex film called Tiny Tits and the Dragon," explains Steve, SBM's MD. "Which is how I met Ellen Bancroft. I was offering her a part in Groin, and I thought I'd adopt an air of mystery - you know, hit of allure - and interest her that way.

"So I started going on about our blood heing each other's up with jokes. Poor fellow."



Death becomes him

Damien Hirst, the art world's golden boy, is breaking into film. Shock, horror. Well, what did you expect? By Jonathan Glancey

two comedians (Eddie Izzard and Keith Allen) are pacing across floorboards trying to tear the soul from one another. Izzard is destined to fly to his death from the library window. This impassioned scene took place earlier this week amid the winter snow watched impassively by Damien Hirst and a gang of

shirts, jeans and buckled boots. What on earth was going on? Damien Hirst was in the middle of making his first film, that's what.

Only last week, Hirst was on stage at the Tate Gallery collectmg the prestigious Turner prize. Not yet 30. Hirst has become Britain's most famous (or infamous) artist. He and his cases of John Boorman and current parapickled animals regularly appear in the columns of the tabloid press. They also appear in such fashionable and institutions as the trilled Boorman to a newspaper Saatchi Collection and the Tate Gallery. But can a young icono- you've got a well-known father. If clast who has made his name sawing dead cows in half cut a film?

Back in Notting Hill, Eddie Izzard and Keith Alien, both known for uncompromising comedy (but increasingly as serious actors), were engaging not in pro-fessional rivalry, but enacting a two-minute 15-second scene from Is Mr Death In?, Hirst's 20-minute "short" commissioned by the Hayward Gallery and the British Film Institute (BFI). The feature is exhibition Spellbound: Art and Film which opens on 22 February next year, 100 years to the day that the first film was shown to the British public.

Hirst is one of several artists (including Peter Greenaway, Rid- the much-hyped creator of all ley Scott, Paula Rego and Douglas Gordon) invited to participate in mals to act the prima donna. But. the Hayward show. The choice of be doesn't. A slight, scruffy figure Hirst - famous, controversial, in torn white T-shirt, grubby black unpredictable - is predictable, but not without risk. For, aside from this month's promotional video for Blur's single "Country House", words as possible, gives credit Hirst has no movie-making expe- where credit is due and shows a film-making, but a big step, prerience. What guarantee is there commonsensical deference to the that this canny shark pickler can make good use of celluloid?

What does the film promise?

Gents'. That's our Damien.

more than its fair share of deaths, disembodied eyeballs, children bayoneting teddy-bears and angst-ridden men smashing lovingly assembled Airfix kits, it also feayoung men and women clad in T- tures a gutsy script and equally visceral performances from the cast composed almost entirely of the artist's mates - Izzard, Allen and Trevor Peacock (another Comic Strip veteran).

The producer is Nira Park, another friend of Hirst. Further down the cast list is Katrine Boorman, daughter of the film director mour of one Danny Moynihan, art dealer turned musician, and pal of Hirst. ("I believe in nepotism." diarist this week, "especially if you can't use your own family, who can you use?"). Hirst's girlfriend. Maia Norman, and his new-born baby. Connor, also appear.

But any suspicion that this is a bunch of luvvies day-tripping to the art world and arty-smarties toying with cinema is dispelled when you watch Hirst at work. Back in Notting Hill, be is a model of beady efficiency. Sitting on the floor among a tangle of cables and film technicians, the artist stares at due to be shown in the Hayward's a small black-and-white Sony video monitor that shows him exactly what his Hayward audience will see come February. Hirst's concentration, matter-

> of-factness and bluff good burnour are impressive. You might expect those sawn, pickled and boxed anijeans, trainers, unkempt hair, dayold stubble and trainers. Hirst says what he wants in as few advice given by his crew.

The day's exchanges are almost entirely restricted to matter-of- his actor chums their head. As a First and foremost an anagram fact suggestions for camera second scene with Izzard, playing

The scene is a grand Italianate villa in London's shooting schedule that spells tant director's "Is that alright for Notting Hill. In the library, Damien Hirst, viz. a list of props you, Damien?" and Hirst's "very for the first of five day's filming that begins with "Vomit". The first location is the interior of a first location is the interior of a first location in the interior of a first location is the interior of a location in the interior of a locati viewed; he is in a hurry). There is But, while Is Mr Death In? has no smart talk and few jokes because, on a sub-zero December

> ford Christie. Unlike the making of an artwork, no matter how fantastical, the making of a film requires the talents of a large number of disparate people. The director can only ever be first among equals. This is clear in the Notting Hill library. The workmanlike atmosphere could hardly be more different from the hot-house torpor

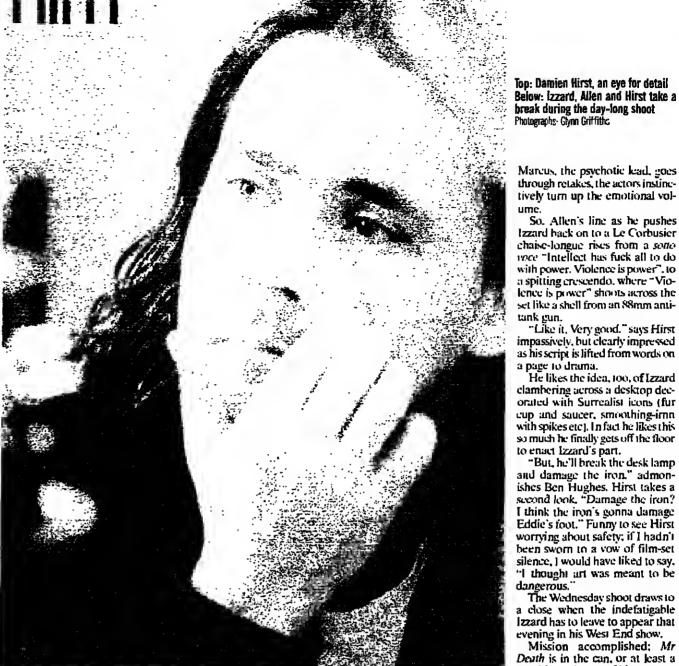
day, time sprints faster than Lin-

of art galleries and private views. Hirst has added little to the ready-made set provided by the Notting Hill house, owned by a British banker and his American art collector wife, whose expensive interior was decorated by the famous Milanese architect Ettorre Sottsass. Contemporary art, furniture and art books abound. Hirst has added at least one artwork of his own, a "phrenology" head encased in a motorcycle crash helmet, the helmet labelled with the same cranial details as those etched into the ceramic bonce.

The making of Is Mr Death In? transforms this aesthetic room into a prosaic factory, the atmosphere laced with smoke from a chimney of Marlboro Lights. Hirst bites his nails and scratches his nose between takes. Film takes so very long, and sometimes even the director seems redundant as scenes are enacted and recorded around him. And, anathema to contemporary artists, film requires compromise.

So, here is Izzard sat at a desk with a metronome ticking away on top of it. Hirst likes this, but the sound mixer (Howie Nicol) isn't happy. So the assistant director (Ben Hughes) proposes one take with the insistent ticking of the metronome and one without. A small episode in the history of sumably, for an artist unused to

Hirst is notably willing to give that spells out the name of the angles, minute amendments to a psychiatrist and Allen playing



with power. Violence is power", to a spitting crescendo, where "Violence is power" shoots across the set like a shell from an 88mm anti-"Like it, Very good," says Hirst impassively, but clearly impressed as his script is lifted from words on a page 10 drama. He likes the idea, 100, of Izzard clambering across a desktop decorated with Surrealist icons (fur cup and saucer, smoothing-irrn with spikes etc). In fact he likes this so much he finally gets off the floor to enact Izzard's part. "But, he'll break the desk lamp and damage the iron," admonishes Ben Hughes. Hirst takes a second look, "Damage the iron? I think the iron's gonna damage Eddie's foot," Funny to see Hirst worrying about safety; if I hadn't

> silence, I would have liked to say. "I thought art was meant to be dangerous."
> The Wednesday shoot draws to a close when the indefatigable Izzard has to leave to appear that

been sworn to a vow of film-set

Top: Damien Hirst, an eye for detail

Marcus, the psychotic lead, goes through retakes, the actors instinctively turn up the emotional vol-

So. Allen's line as he pushes

Izzard hack on to a Le Corbusier

chaise-longue rises from a sono

roce "Intellect has fuck all to do

evening in his West End show.

Mission accomplished: Mr Death is in the can, or at least a

good five minutes of him. So, what's it all about? That would be telling and spoil the surprise, but Hirst's obsession with death and dying haunts his first film, as do images of falling (Eddie Izzard being pushed out of the Noming Hill window) and flying (Keith Allen powering his way into the infinite void in a Spitfire).

What I saw of Is Mr Death In? was well crafted and vital. That other people think so too is confirmed by the fact that Hirst has been asked to make a 90-nunute film, God's Games (starting Dennis Hopper), for Channel 4 next year. What next for the the world's most famous shark-pickler-Hollywood and Jaws Four?

> Spellbound: Art and Film, Hayward Gallery, London, SE1 22 Feb-6 May 1996

### In Bill Gates' utopia, we can all be information millionaires

hen he was eight years old Bill Gates, His Impe-Trial Highness of Information and Potentate of the PC, settled down to work his way through the 1960 World Book Encyclopaedia. "I was determined to read straight through every volume," he recalls. "I could have absorbed more if it had been easy to read all the articles about the 16th century in sequence or all the articles pertaining to medicine. Instead I read about Garter Snakes', then 'Gary. Indiana,' then 'Gas'." He gave up when he reached the P's, apparently, seduced by the superior attractions of the Encyclopaedia Britannica and his first computer. It's rather spooky, don't you think, this picture of childish absorption? The process sounds strangely mechanical, more like downloading than reading. It is most reminiscent of one of those speeded-up educations that malign computers undergo in science-fiction films. You can almost imagine Ma Gates lying in bed at night and asking Pa, as the light goes off, Did you remember to

I have been flicking through Gates's visionary account of the future, The Road Ahead. Or, to translate into Geek, I have been randomly accessing a paper document by means of a sequenced iaminar storage device. The "book" only has a crude information retrieval system - an unreconfigurable alphabetical index - but it was sufficient for what I wanted to do, which was to examine what Bill thinks an electronic future might do for art and culture.

unplug Bill, dear?"

The important point first of all, for any Luddite renders who like to imagine that all of this will pass away, is that Gates is no fool. Hardly needs saving, really, given that his



acuity of foresight has made him rich enough to mount a private moon shot. But it is also clear that he hasn't been seduced by the technology to the point of complete delir-ium. After several pages of excited discussion about how the publishing future will be virtually frictionless ("fric-tion" is his term for the costs, in labour and money, of disseminating your text), he makes an important conces-

a document than it is to make it worth reading." What Gates thinks is worth

establish. He confesses at one point to "greatly enjoying The Bridges of Madison County". which makes the heart sink a hit. But he's a husy man -maybe he couldn't spare the time for anything longer. And there is more promising evidence. In a passage discussing the shortcomings of interactive forms of fiction, Gates makes another concession: "I don't want to choose an ending for The Great Gaisby or La Dolce Vita. F. Scott Fitzgerald and Federico Fellini have done that for me." This has a little smack of research to it, I think - does Gates really love these works or did his original draft contain an electronic note to his secretary:

here"? Still, Gates also says that he enjoys visiting galleries while on business trips reading is more difficult to abroad, principally because digital reproduction can never match the original. In other words, all the obvious objections to fantasies about an electronic culture are acknowledged in The Road Ahead. Those who think that Pride and Prejudice has been an interactive entertainment for 180 years have their fur smoothed flat every now and then by a remark of eminent common sense.

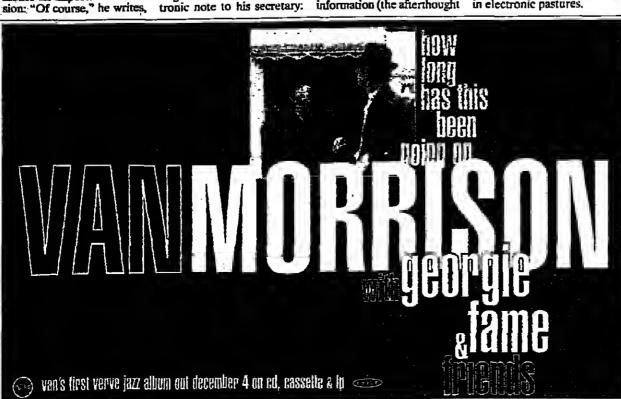
This doesn't mean that Gates is putting the brakes on at all - simply that he occasionally seems to recognise that there is a difference between quantity of information (the thing that really gets him hot) and quality of information (the afterthought

"it's easier to make copies of "Fill in names of art works that prevents him boiling over). Deep down, though, he wants to make us all information millionaires and he's convinced that our newfound wealth will release a surge of creativity: "The information highway will open undreamed of artistic and scientific opportunities to a new generation of geniuses." he writes in his most messianie style.

> are on the verge of a new medium. Real artists will begin to exploit multimedia forms in just the way that artists exploited the novelty of print. But I can't help hoping that the virtues of poverty will also be preserved, that the discipline of squeezing nourishment out of sparse texts will survive alongside the utopia of unlimited browsing in electronic pastures.

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He's right, I think, that we



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All you need to know about the books you meant to read

by Gavin Griffiths

This week: **DON JUAN** by Lord Byron (1819-24)

Plot: This unfinished epic in 16 cantos is the greatest comic poem in the language. Written in eight-line stanzas with a highly elaborate rhyme scheme, it tells of Juan's (pronounced Joo-un) youthful adventures. Byron's hero is not the clapped-out rake of Molière and Mozart: closer to Tom Jones, he stumbles into sexual intrigue, more often the seduced than the

seducer. After hanky-panky with Donna Julia. Juan is exiled from Seville by his mother. His ship is wrecked and Juan is forced to eat his pet spaniel: meanwhile his starving shipmates tuck into his tutor Pedrilla. Eventually Juan lands on a Greek island; he is rescued by Haidée the daughter of a tough pirate: the couple fall in love; her father disapproves; Juan is sold into slavery; Haidée dies of gricf. In Constantinople, the

sultana who has bought Juan, wants to capitalise on her investment. Unfortunately she proves to be obsessively calous and Juan deserts ber for the Russian Army. He hesieges the city of Ismael and so impresses that he is sent with dispatches to St Petersburg arousing the fathomless appetite of the Empress Catherine. He leaves for England on a diplomatic mission and this enables Bryon to set about toffs, country houses and the parochialism of the John Bull mentality.

Theme: The poem is "meant to be a little quictly facetious upon everything" (Bryon). It attacks cant and the way individuals prettify their own motives whilst damning others as hypocrites and snobs. The absurdities of Romanticism are highest aspirations are shown to be a prey for biological urges: food

and sex continually cut across fine feeling

Style: Byron the poet/narrator is the hero. His pyrotechnics with the awkward verse form seem effortless. Rhymes are thrown together with the gentlemanly ease of the Regency buck who must dash off another canto or two before the next glass of claret: "If you think 'twas philosophy that this did/I can't help thinking puberty assisted".

Chief strengths: The tone is satiric, farcical, lyric, nostalgic. Byron seems to be in the room laughing at the reader, laughing at himself, laughing at the boredom of poetic composition. Underneath all is a restless melancholy: Statesmen, chiefs, nrators, queens, patriots, kings/And dandies are all gone on the wind's

Chief weakness: Some of the digressions are selfindulgent and the poem tends to sprawl: a result, perhaps, of serial publication.

What they thought of it then; Wordsworth thought it "infamous". Keats "flash". The public preferred Byron's serious verse tales, with their beetle-browed outcasts. Only Goethe saw it was a work of "boundless genius".

What we think now: There is still a tendency to believe that comic poetry must be light verse. WH Auden is the poem's most acute critic: Don Joan is the most original poem in English; nothing like it had ever been written before."

Responsible for: Pushkin's verse novel Eugene Onegin and Auden's experiment in the same stanzaic form, (which conclusively demonstrates Byron's pre-eminence).

# A passion for little women

Has Lewis Carroll, mathematician and child-fancier, been nailed at last? Miranda Seymour takes his side

Lewis Carroll: A Biography by Morton N Cohen, Macmillan, £25

DEAR PROFESSOR COHEN,

After twenty years of devotion to my work, you must be aware of how little pleasure it affords me to see my pseudonym hroadcast to the world. "Lewis Carroll" was the name by which I chose to separate the fanciful works I wrote for the pleasure of children from Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, Mathematical Lecturer at Christ Church, Oxford, You know how I have suffered on the occasions when my "anonym" has been penetrated by determined lion-hunters. Perhaps I should be grateful that you refer to me by my own name, Charles, throughout your long – your overlong - work.

I have read your book attentively. From you, as the editor of my letters and author of several studies of my writings and photography, I would have hoped for less idle speculation and more consideration for my own views. It is not all bad - you are, on some occasions, pleasingly astute - but I am afraid that I smiled at your claim to have shown "the man entire".

I will endeavour to proceed in chronological order, a method which you do not appear to relish. You commence by describing. quite rightly, my happy, productive adolescence, my fondness for my siblings and my parents, my pleasure in contriving wordgames, playlets and ballads for the family's entertainment. You mention the hullying which I endured as a schoolhoy. I am gratified by your references to my precocity as a mathematcian. And yet, towards the middle of the book, you stand the heginning on its head. You make only a passing reference to the shock I suffered when my dear mother died, two days after I entered Oxford. You hanish that happy adolescence and present my father as a monster, destined to become a tyrant in Wonderland, What, pray, are the mysterious calamities of my youth to which you obscurely refer? And why do you refuse to accept that the death of my poor father, when I was thirty-six, was "the deepest sor-row I have known in life?" Did you think me insincere when I wrote that?

Having ample time nowadays to study my published letters, I am struck by the similar-ity between my father's vivid and even violent imagination and my own. While sharing your scorn for those who have perceived the Alice books as sadistic, I am surprised that you have not suggested that my literary style was greatly affected by my father's writing. True, his letters to me are largely unavailable, but even one might have disclosed this to a thoughtful reader.

You are agreeably shrewd and consider-ate in your discussions of my attachment to children: I am glad that you have not dwelt entirely on my affection for little girls. You are right to draw attention to my love of Blake's Songs of Innocence. My feelings were, their parents' permission. You know my scorn



for the education and love which were all I ever wanted to bestow. "All that matters is what we do for others"; you will recall where I wrote that, I feel sure. I am at a loss to understand why you regard my occasional friendships with young women in their midtwenties as analogous to my avuncular affection for children of eight or ome. I was never entirely serious, as you find me, when I described myself as "desperate" over the news of a former child-friend's marriage. No matter! We had hetter approach the subject of the Liddells. You rightly indicate that dear Alice was not always a lovable child. I understand now how strongly she resembled her spohhish, overbearing mother; I had not fully appreciated that at the time. You seek explanations for the estrangement. It was, as you have guessed, her mother's doing.

Certainly, Mrs Liddell looked for someone above a poor lecturer for her daughter

a prince, indeed! It may have been that I offended her by some jesting reference to a marriage between us, the kind of joke which is made to flatter and entertain a little girl Mrs Liddell had no sense of humour about marriage prospects for her daughters. She regarded me, and all the Dodgsons, as socially inferior. You describe me, correctly, as a shy man and allude to the stammer from which all my family suffered. It would bave pleased me if you could have indicated the trouble I took to cure myself and to procure assistance for fellow-sufferers; Mr Rivers, whose son did so much to ease the trauma of shell-shocked poets such as Sassoon and Graves after my time, might have been more generously mentioned. By enabling me to speak with more confidence, be greatly eased my life. There are respects in which you baffle me. You over-praise my little bur-lesques and parodies. You are prepared to accept the opinions of others - all most flatas I have written elsewhere, sweet and tering on my contribution to algebra and wholesome. When I photographed children determinants. You have delighted me with in their natural state, or invited them to dine the way in which you, even more than the for Mrs Grundy. Sadly, there were several I do, however wonder why, when you are so



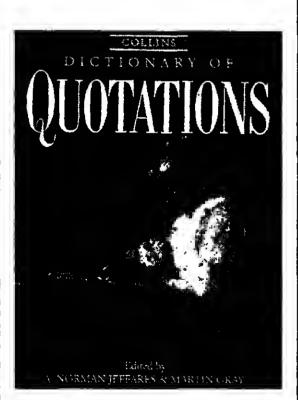
Difficulties with girls: Lewis Carroll's fictional Alice is bombarded by playing cards (above) in Alice In condeniand; (left) Beatrice Hatch, photographed by Carroll against a prospect of white cliffs in 1867

ways and social aspirations through her Looking-Glass journey, you also believe "Alice" to be a portrait of myself? You may persuade your readers of this, but you do not convince me! You are not the first to have a low opinion of the Sylvie and Bruno books. They were intended to be entertaining and educational; it seems that they have fallen short of that aspiration. My humour was, perhaps, a lit-tle heavy-handed. You know how much I used to fear that the children for whom I devised jokes and conundrums were puzzled and bored by my endeavours to combine instruction with pleasure. But the Snark! May I refresh your memory about the extraordinary way in which you wrote about the poem? You compare it to a symphony or mass. You the allusions to college life in the Alice books. frain, while comparing the sound of the words "Snark" and "boojum," and conclude: "Tomothers who cared more for convention than sure that I am describing the real Alice's spoilt gether they encompass an extreme range of

contradictions we face with life and death. That is why the Snark was a Boojum; you see." That, Professor Cohen, is among the most nonsensical observations on the poem I have yet been compelled to read. It is a poem about the search for happiness, as I have often written. Nothing more. How ironic to discover that I hastened my death so unwittingly by using the new aspestos fires in my rooms! But I would not have chosen to prolong my existence by many years. The love of an old bachelor for little children had made me something of a laughingstock. It was growing bard for me to find new child-friends and I was oever omni vorous, like a pig. I always liked to pick and

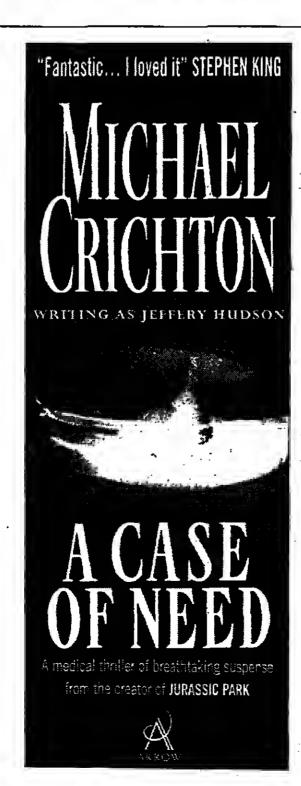
CHARLES DODGSON

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### Looking for clues

Holmes's creator was a suffragette and a devotee of fairies. Martin Booth reports

A spot of detective work on the creator of Sherlock Holmes will by Michael Co need either the deductive powers of the master sleuth himself, associates in the world of commercial espionage or the perspicacity and dedication of a latter-day Dr Watson; because the most valuable and comprehensive Doyle archive is closed to prying hiographical eyes. What remains are the merest gleanings of a complex and captivating man whose life was as exciting and as intriguing as any of the cases pre-

sented to his creation. Arthur Conan Doyle was the third child and the first son born to Charles and Mary Doyle in Edin-hurgh in 1859. His mother was 21, his father a civil service architectural clerk in the Office of Works and a Sunday painter of some merit. Despite their genteel impecuniousness, the Doyles gave their children, and especially their first-born son, the best opportunities they could afford. He was taught by his mother to read at an early age and became an avid bookworm. Both parents heing intellectually curious, Arthur was encouraged to question whatever he did not understand and to seek always to gain knowledge. At the age of nine, his mother, hefiev-ing that the local school did not sufficiently cater for her son's Catholicism, sent him to Stonyhurst. It was a financial burden which could have been lifted had Arthur's father agreed to sign away his son as a future priest: fortunately, he chose

A horn sportsman, Arthur did better on the pitch than in the classroom hut, after a stay in Germany as a language pupil, he returned to Scotland where his parents decided he should enter a safe profession and be enrolled as a medical student at Edinburgh University. Working his way through university as a doctor's acters and an entire genre of fiction.

by Michael Coren Bloomsbury, £18.99

sistant, and after a stint as ship's doctor on-a whaler, he entered general practice in Plymouth then moved to Southsea where he set up his own surgery, lectured to the Portsmouth Literary and Scientific Society, captained the local cricket club and started to write. His output was prodigious and ranged from short stories in Boy's Own Paper to

learned articles in The Lancet.
In 1885, he married Louise
Hawkins, the sister of one of his
patients. She was intellectually his inferior and their marriage, although it lasted until her death, was oot a loving one. Doyle preserved his true affections for another, Jean Leckie, whom, he married after Louise's death. At the same time as he started to write. Doyle became fascinated by spiritualism, a cause he was to espouse for the rest of his life - and one of the greatest enigmas about the man. A rational-thinking scientist by training, by now a lapsed Catholic, he was convinced the soul lived on after death and could materialise through a medium. In later life, Doyle travelled all over the world lecturing on spiritualism and seeking out its frauds, so the true mediums could gain veracity. He also believed in fairies.

Within a year of his marriage, Doyle submitted the first Sherlock Holmes story to London publishers. Two rejected his work but the third paid him £25 for it. "A Study in Scar-let" was published in *Beeton's Christ-*mas Annual in 1887. It was the best story in the book, gained critical acclaim and gave birth to one of the world's most endearing literary char-

Success spurred Doyle on to other things. He wrote a large corpus of ripping yarns of Imperialist derringdo as well as poetry, plays and studies of spiritualism. Away from the world of letters, he served at the age of 40 as a military doctor in the Boer War, tramped the Flanders trenches, guarded German PoWs, took up worthy causes such as the scan-dalous Edalji affair and the persecution of a medium accused of witchcraft, supported women's suffrage, was seminal in re-writing the divorce laws and was a prime instigator in the foundation of forensic science. In short, Doyle became a national figure, commanding in real terms far higher royalties than any British novelist before or since. He was the first of the literally "best-selling"

Sadly, Coren's biography does not quite live up to the "definitive" label bears, for it suffers from a paucity of original research. His study is competent but it presents nothing new, relying for its sources on material which has been well picked over in the past, while omitting some pertinent details. The basis for Doyle's construction of Holmes, the true nature of the author's almost fanatical belief in the supernatural and his abandonment of Roman Catholicism, the underlying causes of his fierce patriotism and jingoistic imperialism, not to mention his contrihutions to medicine (some of which remain valid to this day) are not studied in any real depth. It is as if the biographer himself is arriving in Holmes's study in 221b, Baker Street, to present the barest skeleton of his dilemma to the great man whose role we must accept in extrapolating, assimilating, assessing and interpreting the many clues so as to dress the bones of the case with flesh. The trouble is, of course, we are not Sherlock Holmes, and we need more than



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# Turbulent dreams of a damaged saint

He was a survivor of Dachau, a brilliant child psychologist — and a suicide. Nicholas Tucker considers Bruno Bettelheim

Brung Bettelheim: The Other Side of Madness, by Nina Sutton, Duckworth, £25

psychoanalysis but few have ever been so conistently contradictory as the great educator Brunu Bettellieim, who died in 1990. Well known in Freudian circles, he always hid the fact that he never completed a psychoanalytic training and, despite claims to the contrary, possessed no psychology qualifications of any sort.

Famed as a leading therapist fur taking on children uthers had rejected. Bettelheim could also be irascible and violent within the fiercely protected pri-vacy of his own establishment. While bringing out his book A Good Enough Parent, he disinherited the daughter with whom he was then bitterly quarrelling. As someone whose mission was to hetp others stand upon their own feet, he took his life after months of planning - plans in which even a four-year-old grandchild was not spared some of the grisly details.
It is tempting to crow over those self-advertised

gurus who turn out to be less than perfect. After Bettelheim's suicide, many accusations were made against him, most notably by former pupils from his famous Orthogenic School (taking its cumbersome name from the Greek orthos (straight) and genos (origin). It's a predictable response to round on a father figure who arbitrarily ahandons his surrogate children, but there were other ex-pupils who continued to insist that, for them, Dr B remained a revered figure. He was also shown to have exaggerated the concentration camp experiences memorably recorded in his bouk The Informed Heart. But hlaming anyone who survived such appalling circumstances for being slightly selective with their memories seems exceptionally harsh. As it was, the recollection of his pre-war year in Dachau and Buchenwald always haunted Bettelheim. He was not the only survivor to end his life in deep depression terminated by suicide.

Like Bettelheim, Nina Sutton, the author of this biography, sees early family tensions as the fundamental determinants of personality. The fact that Bettelheim's mother found him an ugly baby weighs more here that the effects upon him of living in fear of death or torture 35 years later in Dachau. Bettelheim's encounters with anti-Semitism as a child, plus the experience of living in a family racked by the effects of a father suffering from syphilis, are also given prominence in explaining the later houts of depression and self-hatred he knew so well. Sutton argues her case persuasively. Others might prefer to conclude that Bettelheim was also one of those individuals horn with a generally discontented personality whatever their subsequent family history.

Bettelheim saved his life at Dachau by working on latrine duty, which ensured a warm shower in the evening and the absence of close attention from hru- to sleep. tal guards. Brought out by foreign supporters in April 1939, just in time to escape penniless to America, he used his experiences as a basis for believing that, whatever the odds, all human beings can make it if only they are given the chance. This conviction led him, in typically paradoxical style, to claim that his period

of imprisonment actually did him some good. It was certainly the only time he never had lhoughts about suicide of the type that shadowed the rest of his life, so great was his determination to survive. In America once, faced by pupils thought to be autistic, Bettelheim insisted that, however crazy their ebrated writers on child psychology: an awkward behaviour seemed, it still made sense if only its par- angel for some who knew him, a pain in the neck for ticular personal meaning could be discovered. This others, a beguiling enigma for the rest of us.

rilliant mavericks have always been drawn to injection of confidence had a most positive effect upon pupils and staff. Undrugged, surrounded by good food, lavishly rewarded with presents on their hirthdays, even the most troubled children sometimes gained a new sense of self-respect.

Had Bettelheim left it at that; he could have been closer in his own life to the near-omniscient saint that he appears in his writings. But there was always the desire to impress the rest of the world at all costs, a desire that led to the various falsifications of results that were gleefully picked up on after his death. If he did not cure as many pupils as he claimed, and if severe autism turned out to be more resistant to therapy than he had thought, there was still much to admire in his achievements. Working with disturbed children is very hard and Bettelhim worked harder than most. If just one pupil ultimately triumphed, it was just cause for pride. In fact many of his charges were eventually able to lead contented, productive adult lives; a fine epitaph for a supremely gifted, if flawed, practitioner who, as a fellow Viennese once observed, "had all the trappings of a genius withoutbeing one".

Even so, there were many occasions when Bettelheim's views were ahead of his time. Unafraid of controversy, he quarrelled with the kibhutz movement in Israel, urging the return to a model of family life that was later to happen anyway. He committed the ultimate act of defiance against received opinion by attacking Anne Frank's father in print for not doing more to help his family escape from the Nazis. Not for the first time, Bettelheim was shown to be over-hasty in his judgments, but the points he raised about Jewish passivity in their terrible fate helped lead to a necessary debate. His wholesale endorsement of fairy tales as essential reading for children (in his The Uses of Enchantment) was mighty blow in the war against the inspid reading books once so popular in schools.

Challenging current ortbodoxies is always stimu-lating, and although he was a supporter of Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, Bettelheim remained a challenging figure in the field of human relations. The long-stuffering staff at his school could never be assured of his autumatic support when reporting back about their dealings with a particularly disruptive pupil. Bettelheim might instead suggest that the child was reacting against something a counsellor had unconsciously intimated themselves. This could be dismaying, but by insisting there was always more to learn for both teacher and pupil, Bettelheim invested even the most humdrum reality with its own dynamic possibilities. Nothing ever appeared dull or obvious in the counselling sessions he held with staff, often late intu the night after pupils had eventually gone

Nina Sutton describes his turbulent life with clarity and fairness. Written in French and well translated, it is an intriguing story. Whether it warrants over 500 pages is another matter. (Perhaps we need a Society for Promoting Shorter Biographies, to lobby writers who cannot bear to jettison any of the facts they have so laboriously gathered about their subject.) To make matters worse, the index here is a disgrace: a bare list of proper nouns stripped of any helpful ancillary information. But those are my only criticisms of an intelligent study of one of this century's most cel-



# New Look at a saga's close

The Cazalet family chronicle ends triumphantly. Sue Gaisford raises a blissful glass

asting off is what you do when you finish your knitting. It is also what you do in a boat, when setting sail for the open sea. In this, the last of her quartet of novels about the Cazalet family. Elizabeth Janc Howard reassembles her cast, ties them neatly together and sends them off into an unknown future. It is you might say, estimated.

is, you might say, satisfactory.
You might also say that it is beautifully written, with the deceptive ease of a fine novelist completely in charge of her material. Her late husband, Kingsley Amis, once said dis-paragingly of his son Martin that he was incapable of writing the plain sentence. "He finished his drink and left". He could never have said that

Yet behind her simple style lie complex ideas. Sometimes these are expressed in ironic inversions of cliché. Over lunch poor Villy, the ahandoned wife of Edward Cazalet, finds comfort in the opportunity to tell her friend Hermione how awful she feels, but Hermione is an incurable pragmatist who proffers innu-

by Elizabeth Jane Howard Macmillan, £15.99

by possibilities", to Archie, the family frieod in whom everyooe con-fides. He feels such sympathy with the whole bunch of them that he can no longer "see the trees for the

wood".

Howard is perceptive, both literally, as when describing a "lompy thrush hauling a worm out of the grass with short, irritable tugs", and more profoundly, as when observing the effects of sorrow. Hugh Cazalla and down by his let, a widower, is woro down by his loss, by "the effort of trying to turn grief into regret, to live entirely on past nourishmeot... he had got hor-ribly used to missing her. This was described by other people as getting over it". And Howard appreciates the wild hopes entertained by children of divorcing parents. There is a poignant scene when Villy's little son announces that he knows why his large father has left. It is because

the ceilings are too low: everything nates their thinking. An old man has could be all right again if they got a teeth like the old yellow almonds on

The story begins with the Labour landslide of 1945 and ends with Indian independence. Public events, however, impinge little on the Cazalets. Soldiers return home and jobs are scarce, the war has battered weary, fog-bound London, but they feel its effects most keenly in their stomachs. Howard's touch is never surer than when writing about food. Rationing produces desperate measures: stewed apple that seems to be full of fingernails, dried egg tasting of prayerbooks. Brown Windsor soup and rugged little fillets of plaice. In a dreary station tea-room there is a mercifully brief encounter with sandwiches that are apparants, "writhing with antiquity."

ently "writhing with antiquity." Now and again, people escape -to France, where there are juicy hlack olives and tomatoes strewn with hasil, or to America, land of enormous steaks and unlimited butter - but back home they are still hungry. There is a major shortage of servants so that everyone has to this spleodid saga, feels much the learn to cook: food imagery domi-

a fruitcake; the retired goveroess at a wedding is arrayed in a suit the colour of hlackberry fool; a child's mouth is pale red and translucent,

like the skin of a redcurrant. But in spite of the hardships, they all get on with their lives. They hutton up their hust-bodices, snap sbut their suspenders and slip bap-pily into the New Look, before powdering their noses in public, lighting up their innocent Passing Clouds, setting off to see a new actress called Margaret Rutherford in Blithe Spirit and, as likely as not, falling in love. At least four love-stories are told, but we care most about plain Clary who most deserves - and happily achieves - hliss.

As ber reward approaches, she is

finishing writing her first novel. The delightful Archie suggests that she must be pleased, but her pleasure is tinged with sadness that she has created so many characters to whom she must now say goodbye. The reader, coming to the end of

Harriet Paterson greets a stunning debut

Rasero by Francisco Rebelledo,

trans. by Helen R Lane Weidenfeld, £16.99

rancisco Rebolledo is a Mexican chemistry teacher who threw it all in to write the book be had been dreaming of for ten years. In his delight at leaving the laboratory for the wilder shores of literature. Rebolledo bas produced a huge, hursting novel, filled with life and ideas, with philosopby, science, art, sex and death.

. No other time and place is more suitable to such an undertaking than 18th-century Paris; Rasero takes us on an extraordinary journey through the years of the Enlightenment and beyond, from Louis Ouinze to Bonaparte. Everyone seems to be in it, at least all who most perfectly incarnate the spirit of the age: Diderot, d'Alembert, Mozart and Madame de Pompadour, Danton and Desmoulins.

Rebolledo offers intimate encounters with each of these figures. Voltaire shuffles around in his slippers, a bright red woolly cap perched on his wig. La Pompadour is ageing badly, with swollen eyelids and puffy checks. Each portrait resonates with historical and political fact, yet is alive with gossipy detail.

In the manner of Perfume, the book plunges straight into the viscera of the age; sweat, blood and pus smear the opening phrases. Diderot lies submerged in one of his endless baths, trying to remove the stench of Vincennes prison, "an odor or urine and burned turds, of garlic and cooking oil, of scorched lime and rancid fish". Only Fausto Rasero can bring him relief, a strange young émigré from Spain with a bald head and impenetrable black eyes, Ageless, magnetic and visionary, he is a thoroughly unusual protagonist. His presence refreshes the mind and body of everyone be meets, a revitalising influence who unlocks hopes and desires. He is a polymath, whose ceaseless sensuality. His perfect day consists of a stimulating debate with Voltaire followed by extended lovemaking with a new paramour. Hard to quarrel with that. But there's a bitch: at the moment of sexual climax, Rasero invariably experiences horrifying visions of the 20th century. Not only does this mar the moment critique, it also inhibits his intellectual discussions with friends as they conjecture about the future. They expect the progress of knowledge to herald in a brave new world. Rasero knows better, or rather, worse.

Along the way, Rebolledo furnishes his setting with exquisite attention to objets d'an and canvases from Boucher to Goya: the frivolous rococo chez Madame de Pompadour, the dark, frightening paintings and heavy furniture of Rasero's Malagan home. There is plenty of good conversation. The vocabulary is energetic and wide ranging Indeed, his writing is so fluent and confident, it is hard to remember this is a first novel. He seduces the senses and invigorates the intellect. He conducts experiments with time which create a giant puzzle around his protagonist, until memory and prophecy become fused. Equally at home with Roussean or a street collector of excrement, he bas what all historical writers need, the ability not just to study a subject but to assimilate it completely, so as to move with ease amongst the dead.



### Who's reading whom?

The artist Maggi Hambling is delving again into E F Benson's collected Lucia novels, published as "Lucia Rising" (Penguin)

books my way on a trip to New York in 1991 and I'm now on a third visit to Tilling and Riseholme. 1 Lucia in Rischolme, and

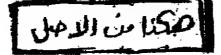
It is entirely due to Keith ing life in the studio is Milow that I became a lonely and full of doubt Luciaphile. He put the and despair, so it's an enormous pleasure to cad the day laughing. Since one of my ambitions is to die laughing, I try and get read them in the order in a bit of practice as I go that I first met them: Miss to sleep. In deepest, deep-Mapp in Tilling, Queen est gloom I'll read Just William, unless I've drunk so on. Once started it's an too much and the words addiction and I have to start dancing around on complete the cycle. Work- the page.











Bouffant hairstyles, meaty thighs, voluminous bottoms clad in leopardskin lycra, ad hoc enjoyments in karaoke pubs, tango bars, Tenerife nightclubs, south coast promenades, hen parties at the Dolphin Hotel, even (above) the public library - It could only be the

world of Beryl Cook, the nation's most good-hearted self-taught painter. In Happy Days, (Gollancz, £14.99) her usual Plymouth-based cast of portly good-time girls and plumply setfimportant men is supplemented by characters from Glasgow and Argentina, their dignity constantly undercut by Ms Cook's indulgent good humour. Her autobiographical notes and chatty explanations of her technique have an additional charm that is not wholly ingenuous.Donald McGill meets

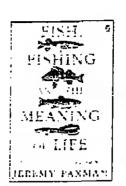
### Paperbacks -

Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst



Up North by Charles Jennings

Sustained by a prodigious intake of curries, a London back explores an alien land 200 miles up the motorway. Predictably dyspeptic, his report is also a comic *tour de* force, Blackpool, he notes, is "the first place I've heen to where the whole town has halitosis," Though generally keen-eyed. Jennings bizarrely insists that Yorkshiremen drink beer in quarter-pint glasses. Šo how come



Fish. Fishing and the Meaning of Life by Jeremy Paxman (Penguin, £8,99)

Wriggling politicians are not the only life-form Jeremy likes to book. While mainly set on the riverbank, his anthology also trawls distant waters. In the section on 'Fish That Bit Back', we learn how Jaws-style attacks shocked the US in 1916. In Ones That Didn't Get Away', there is an 1839 account of the original Moby Dick. A rich haul, not only for anglers, with Twain and Orwell alongside Walton.



Brown's Requiem by James Ellroy (Arrow, £5.99)

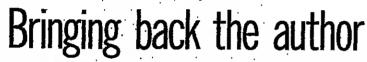
Ellroy's first thriller from 1981 updates Chandler with a plotline that zigzags round the freeways and fairways of LA. Fritz Brown, a music-loving gumshoe with a booze problem, is hired by a slobhish caddy. Far Dog, to probe his sister's love-life, A rangle of drugs, racism and arson ensues, with the near-psychopathic Brown contributing a hefty dollop of violence. Hard-hitting if derivative.



Lives of the Great Songs edited by Tim de Lisle (Penguin, £6.99)

Telling the stories of 40 pop tunes from genesis to interpretation, this Independent On Sunday series is as addictive as a box of choes. It's the soul numbers - "Take Me to the River", "The Dark End of the Street". - which thunder in your head. Not all the songs are so great, Billy J. Kramer is mocked for rejecting The Beatles's

"Yeslerday", later to be recorded by 1,186 artists. The funny thing is. Billy J. was right.



After years of literary theory, is it safe to speak of 'characters' again? By Michele Roberts

one of the pleasures of reading involves giving free rein to drives of desire and curiosity. To that voyeuristic indulgence, this book adds another: the satisfaction of eavesdropping on its two authors chatting about the novels they enjoy. The reader's sense of glueing a greedy car to the keyhole is highlighted by the evident delight each speaker takes in her interlocutor's insights and comments. They're happily wrapped up in each other, in the give and take of ideas.

The book was conceived after its two authors met during a discussion oo George Eliot at the Cheltenham Festival in 1992, one of whose themes was psychoanalysis and literature. That first conversation led to others, and so to this book, whose editor Rebecca Swift organised the tape-recording and tweaked the final text into shape. The six novels chosen for discussion are Mansfield Park by Jane Austen, Villette by Charlotte Bronte, Daniel Deronda by George Eliot, The Professor's House by Willa Cather, An Unofficial Rose by Iris Murdoch and Beloved by Toni Morrison. Each dialogue is preceded by a synopsis of the novel under consideration, a page and a half of faintly absurd plot summary. You can't summarise paintings and I don't think you can summarise novels either. A book like Beloved, made precisely to investigate the possibilities and failures of languages, cannot be reduced like a sauce. Better to skip these summaries and go straight to the talks they introduce.

Byatt and Sodre have set out to recapture and re-experience a fulfilment **Imagining Characters** Six Conversations about **Women Writers** by AS Byatt & Ignes Sodre

sheer, simple pleasure of sitting about passionately telling each other what they spelt out in the text and must remain a think about what they read. The rise of literary theory, they appear to suggest, has made the "common reader" (famously addressed as such by Virginia Woolf) lose confidence in his or her capacity to make literary judgments. You could assert the opposite too: that literary theory, having declared the death of the author, has made space for precisely the active, curious reader that each other to make mature life choices. Byatt and Sodre represent. At the same time, reading has moved back into the public domain after having been seen for so long as a private activity. Literary festivals celebrate not just the notion of the celebrity writer, but the participation of a lively and demanding audience of readers hursting with opinions and questions. One of the charms of this book is that it allows its authors to be both writers and readers at the

Sodre, as a psychoanalyst, and Byatt, as a writer who loves storytelling of both the realist and fairytale traditions, believe in personalities, in selves. They can talk about Fanny, the heroine of Mansfield Park, as though she were a chosen fields and to conversation as the they believed all readers want: the real person they both know well. This, best route 10 profound thought.

they insist, is how all readers operate, or wish to do. It's only the thought police of literary theory who stress that novels are made of language, that char-acters represent flows of words. They seek to return to us a lost pleasure, that of indulging in delicious literary gossip about whether we love Fanny or loathe her, just as we might do with a mutual acquaintance. The other fashionable taboo they break is daring to talk about the author's intentions, which are not matter for speculation. They let themselves assert how Jane Austen felt about Christianity, about morality, about the individual characters. It's all shameless good fun. Oddly, however, the more they talk about characters as real people, the more artificial it sounds - treating characters as patients suffering neurotic disorders or helping

The contribution of psychoanalysis to creative reading seems to lie in its capacity to see a novel as an entire landscape, a geography of connected metaphors whose interplay, often "below" the explicit surface of the text. suggests the weaving of conscious and unconscious in the dreamer's and the writer's minds. This sensitive and generous approach lets Byatt and Sodre link writing to the invention in other art forms of the Psychomachia, the battle of the soul. The section "Dream and Fiction," at the end of the this enjoyable book, is almost the most interesiing. In it, both writers pay passionate homage to the creative process of their



they get so big?

The Hounding of John Thomas by Craig Brown (Arrow, £5.99)

From Craig Brown's newspaper columns you wouldn't know he was bonkers, but he clearly is. His novel tells the story of John Thomas MP - only son of Lady Chatterley and her lusty gamekeeper (aka Willie Winkie) from his humble beginnings in a New Heanor grocery shop to the Oxford Union debate where the 'disgusting" truth of his dodgy parentage is startlingly revealed. It's the kind of humour that leaves 13-year girls laughing helplessly on the floor.



The End of Innocence by Simon Garfield (Faber, £7.99)

Simon Gartield's investigation into Britain's first decade of living with Aids takes a sober look at how the medical and political establishment tried to "de-gay" the virus before it could copc. He relives the initial panic that gripped the nation (health warnings featuring tombstones. fear of unwashed cups in restaurants), but is at his best describing those first few doctors who weren't afraid to grapple with this horrific new disease before it even had a



Evelyn Wangh; A Biography by Selina Hastings (Minerva, £7.99)

"Poor Evelyn." one of Waugh's women-friends wrote of him late in his life, "he is deeply unhappy - bored from morning till night, and has developed a personality which he hates but cannot escape from." The author of some of the greatest comic novels in the English language wasn't always much fun to be around, but to be fair. there's something rather humourless about the way Hastings has assembled all her dense data. Absorbing stuff, nonetheless.



Mrs Jordan's Profession by Claire Tomalin (Penguin, £8.99)

Mrs Jordan was the most popular actress of her day, but unlike her contemporary, Mrs Siddons, her memory was quickly crased from the public mind. A working actress all her life, she got by without great beauty, bore 13 illegitimate children (ten to the Duke of Clarence) and died alone in France, cut off from royal affections. Tomalin's biography brilliantly recaptures a more prodigious age and recounts what must be one of biography's saddest deaths.

### Flowing brooks and soupy pedals

What did Romanticism mean to Schubert and Liszt? Graham Johnson weighs the evidence

or the German writer Novalis, the essence of Romanticism was to make the familiar strange and the strange familiar". The Romantic Generation, by the distinguished American pianist and critic Charles Rosen, seems to share this achievement. The book is an impressive attempt to make sense of the cultural movement which gave us Schubert and Schumann, Chopin and Lizst, and it does so in part by placing these composers in the context of far less famous writers of the period.

Rosen gives long overdue recognition to the importance of the song cycle as "the most original musical form created in the first half of the 19th century". For him, it "most clearly embodies the Romantic conception of experience as a gradual unfolding and illumination of reality in the place of Classical insis-tence on initial clarity". In a discussion of Schubert's Die schöne Müllerin and Winterreise, he compares the song cycles' sense of slowly coming into focus with the landscape descriptions of writers such as Etienne Pivert de Sénancour (little koown now, but a cult. figure in his day), for whom Romanticism was embodied by moments such as these: "When the October sun as these: "When the October sun Bellini and Meyerbeer. The single cost of a lesson with a master pianist.

The Romantic Generation

by Charles Rosen HarperCollins, £30

woods; when a small brook flows and moon sets; when, under the summer sky on a cloudless day, a woman's voice sings, a little distant, at four o'clock in the midst of the walls and roofs of a

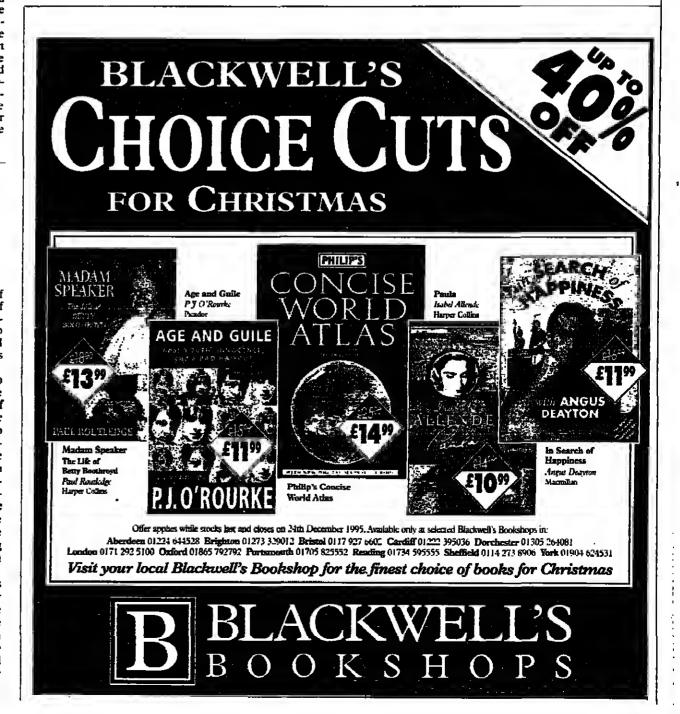
large city ...". As a song accompanist, I find Rosen's literary sensibility refreshing but I was surprised that he gave little recognition to the way in which, in song composition, certain musical patterns and shapes come into being through verbal imagery. His comments on performance, however, are precise and illuminating: for example, he argues that pianists should avoid too much soupy pedal in Schubert; it should be treated.

Though Schubert's shadow is a constant presence throughout, the book is dominated by Schumann and Chopin, with shorter chapters on Berlioz and

chapter on Lizst strikes me as one of the finest explications ever written of his genius: unlike Lizst's more fainthearted apologists, Rosen doesn't try to deny the composer's flashiness and charlatanry, which he acknowledges as an integral part of the package.

Rosen's hreadth of learning in so falls in a field closed by trees, as the many disciplines is awesome, and he creates powerful syntheses out of diverse threads. Yet at the same time he can be capricious, even eccentric. To discuss Romantic landscape with an indepth analysis of Louis Ramond de Carbonnières and Aurelio di Giorgio Bertola but bardly a mention of Caspar David Friedrich seems almost perverse. One feels that he hasn't quite decided whom he's writing for: at one moment he is explaining that Es is the German for E flat, next, he's assuming his audience can read effortlessly from the printed musical examples.

Though the amateur may sometimes feel perplexed and excluded, this tour not as the norm, but as a special effect. of the Romantic landscape is worth the occasional discomfort. It's a small price to pay for the dazzling insights which illuminate the text like lightning. There are paragraphs in this book I would





# A waxy crassula isn't just for Christmas

Anna Pavord suggests presents for the green of finger

ransfer his attention to garden centres. rooms. Stranded between the compost and the chemicals are hasty constructions of picket fences, borrowed from the outdoor leisure department and scantily disguised with plastic snow. "Last grotto session 2.15-4pm" said a notice stuck to the hovel in our local garden centre. It made Santa sound like the local MP, doing his constituency surgeries. He arrived here (S not MP) in a flurry of helicopter blades on 18 November. The helicopter is a fair enough trade-off for the sleigh, given the price of reindeer feed, but November! They had scarcely got rid of Guy Fawkes.

I was there swooping up a few plants to turn into Christmas presents. It is one of the miracles of modern life that you can still buy a steely blue echeveria, a kalanchoe with leaves as furry as a teddy hear or a waxy crassula for only 99p, Planted up in old bowls or haskets, which you can pick up in junk shops and charity shops, these make remarkably settled little worlds. You can do desert (in which case go for the three above) or damp. Damp displays do well in bathrooms, or any place where the light is rather diffuse. Use ferns, ivies and some of the superb leaves painted in bronze, pink and silver.

- only £3.99. Difficult to wrap, I know, but you sents for you for an extra £6. could do what Gardens Illustrated did in a recent

erhaps it is the lack of chimneys in mod-feature and turn them into scarecrows. For wall vase, 17cm tall, 13cm wide at the neck (h ern homes that has forced Santa to arms, tie a crosspiece under the broom bit, which becomes the head. Then you could At this time of the year, garden centre dress the scarecrow in a sacking shift, decorated grottoes spring up faster than mush-with packets of seeds and bags of small bulbs. Twenty Anemone de Caen Single Blue cost only £1.49. There's another staggering bargain. Christmas is late to plant them, but they are

used to growing at odd times and will oblige.
For the more severely practical gardener, you could buy a DIY mushroom kit for £3.99. I have a sneaking desire to have one myself. The way mushrooms grow, swelling quietly at dawn out of the damp, dark hlanket of compost around them, is intriguing. Think, too, of a bacon break-fast in the New Year and the pleasure of being able to gather a handful of your own mushrooms to sizzle in the pan.

Ned Trier does something rather more glam-orous. He offers a Truffle Lovers' Kit: an oak sapling (oak is the truffle's preferred haunt), a chocolate truffle-bunting pig to belp you root out the truffles (if you can ever encourage any to grow, which is doubtful) and half a pound of the best chocolate truffles to help you get over your disappointment if you don't succeed. The kit costs £25. For the same price, you could order That Old Chestnut, a slatted wooden box containing a sweet chestnut tree, a box of succulent marrons glacés and recipes for your own chestnut harvests. Available from Ned Trier Gardens, 82 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London For other stockists call 01438 869346. Twig brooms or besoms are good value too SW6 2TF (0171-371 0775). They can send pre-

is gently cone shaped) and 8.5cm across from the flat back to the curved front, price £20.50. This is just the right size to drop in the stray handfuls of flowers that the garden provides at this season: marbled arums with spikes of jasmine, the first freckled hellebores, some spikes of smelly viburnum. They also do a glass flowerpot, 11.5cm tall for £10.35. This is severely impractical, but there is a certain fascination in seeing how the roots of things are coming along. The pot is too small for amaryllis, which look stunning in glass containers, but you could squeeze in a few Iris reticulata. Touch Design is at PO Box 60, Andover, Hampshire SP11 6SS (01264 738060). Fragile orders will be hand delivered at an extra cost of £5.50.

Verdigris make copper plant tags soft enough for you to write on with a ballpoint. Ink fades, but this impression is fixed permanently. You can huy fat T-shaped labels, 5cm high by 3.5 cm across, which are ideal for herb gardens, pot plants, window boxes and vegetable gardens. They cost £3.49 for a pack of 15. Tie-on copper plant tags, 11.5cm long by 2cm wide have a bole at one end, threaded with copper wire, £4.75 for a pack of 15. These can easily be fixed on roses, climbing plants, small trees and shrubs. They are widely available. In London, try Fulham Palace Garden Centre, The Conran Shop or After Noah, Upper Street, London NI. a scent shop. The Christmas rose, Helleborus a Lord Emsworth at Blandings. Here is the

first took off at the Great Exhibition of 1851, wicked uncle who wished to check your gar- Avoiding nostalgia, embracing stoicism, these Touch Design can send a flat-backed glass wheo Queen Victoria ordered several from dening zeal left you pots of money on condi- are powerful images.

Thomas Smith of Herstmonceux to give as presents to members of the Royal Housebold. Smith was so proud of the order that he walked the 60 miles to Buckingham Palace with his handcart, to deliver them personally.

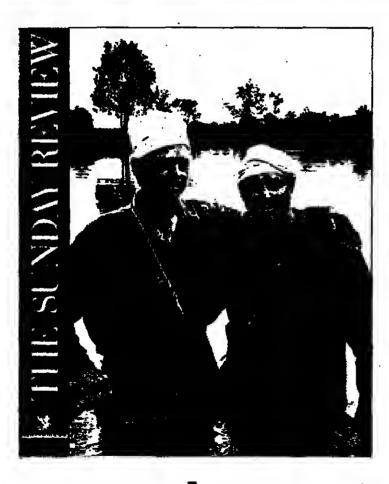
I use one to carry garden tools about, another as a kind of In Tray - except that nothing ever goes out of it - and a third for gathering potatoes. Trugs are like that. You can always find a reason to have another. The original Sussex trug, as invented by Thomas Smith, with a handle and rim of sweet chestnut and boards of cricket hat willow, is available from Thomas Smith's Trug Shop, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, East Sussex (01323 832137). Prices start from £23.60 (including p&p). Other styles, made from Finnish birch ply with coloured trims, are also available.

For less than £20 you could order the Christmas Collection of plants from the nursery Wootten's of Wenhastoo. Given the right weather, these four might even be in flower on-Christmas Day. The collection includes Veronica peduncularis 'Georgia Blue', recently introduced from the Caucasus by Roy Lancaster. I had this plant from Roy and it is a very good doer, spreading rapidly to make a prostrate mat, covered with blue flowers. Sweet box, Sarcococcu confusa, has insignificant white flowers

tion you grew only one species of plant. What would you choose?" asked the Edwardian plantsman, E A Bowles. He chose this iris. Wootten's of Wenhaston is at Blackheath, Wenhaston, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 9HD (01502 478258). The collection costs £14.80 if you collect it, or £19.80 by mail order.

Books to look out for include A Handful of Flowers, an anthology of verse and prose with wood engravings by Yvonne Skargon, £9.95 from Colt Books, 9 Clarendon Road, Cambridge CB2 2BH (01223 329059) and harvesting the edge by g f dutton, who does everything in lower case like e e cummings. This man, scientist, gardener, poet, has spent most of his life among what he calls the "passionate austerities" of Scotland, balancing on the knife blade between nature and culture in his marginal garden on the slopes of the southeastern Highlands. His book is published by the Menard

A book that you'll need two copies of, because once you've seen it, you won't be able to give it away, is A Corner of England, North Devon landscapes and people photographed by James Ravilious (Devon Books/The Lutterworth Press, £19.95). Here is a ruined cob barn, looking like a prehistoric adobe shelter. Here is Archie Parkhouse surveying his pig, knee among its dark evergreen leaves but smells like deep in ber trough, with the quiet pleasure of niger is an old favourite, as is the fourth plant churchyard at Shobrooke, the gravestones Sussex trugs, shallow curved wood baskets, in the collection, Iris unguicularis. "Suppose a standing stark as sarsens in the cold winter light.



Back to work at Chernobyl: almost 10 years after the catastrophe, Richard D North asks whether it is such a bad place to live

Bras, panties, stockings and suspender belts: Kelly Klein presents a spectacular history of underwear

Plus: Robert Cushman on panto; and the saga of the serial suicides

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



Plant names: how to save a rare vegetable; a Polish garden photographed

Gwladys or Ysobel or Ethyl or Mabelle or Kathryn. But par-ticularly Gwladys," wrote P G Wodehouse. Pauline and Northants NN11 3AW. David Hartshorn's Directory of First Name Plants, however, will lead you to names you do two Tristrams, one an ivy, the other a sempervivum, and two Charleses, one a dianthus, the

No good can come of associThe directory costs £2 (incl. and seedsmen can only recoup
ation with anything labelled p&p) and can be ordered the cost of registration on the direct from D and P Hartshorn, Nonesuch Cottage, Badby,

Adopt a vegetable" is the plea from the Henry Doubleday Research Association, which is want to remember. There are concerned about the limited number of vegetable varieties now available to gardeners. Since the 1970s EEC regulaother a tulip. Flatterers might tions have required that all choose 'Big Charles', which is varieties of vegetable be reg-a fuchsia. The possibilities for istered. But each registration coded messages are endless. costs several hundred pounds

best-selling varieties.

Because of increasing pressure on marginal varieties, the HDRA waots to expand its seed library and is asking for sponsors to adopt a vegetable and secure its survival. For £12.50 a year, you could take on the 'Snow White Cherry' tomato or 'Mr Lenthall's' Ryton Organic Gardens, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Ceventry CV8 3LG (01203 303517). (Thursdays 10-8).

just opened at the Polish Cul-Itural Institute, 34 Portland Place, London, is an exhibition of photographs of Arkadia, a garden of 30 hectares near Nieborow in Poland. Arkadia was originally laid out between 1778-1821 for the Princess Helena Radziwill. Its features include a lake, the artificial ruins of an aqueduct and a Temple of Diana. An extensive restoration of the garden is hroad bean. For a sponsor restoration of the garden is form, contact the HDRA at now being carried out. The exhibition, which runs until 24 Jan is open Mon- Fri 10-4

### Join now while stocks last

The Royal Horticultural Society isn't the only one giving away seeds. By Clare Stewart

ree seeds! It's the sort of offer you effort by distributing vegetable seeds. as the glasshouses at Wisley, which Need to Know about Gardening - a complete guide in 97 weekly instal-

ments, plus handy binder.
But free seeds from the Royal
Horizontarial Society are a very different matter. These seeds do not come bundled into packets of old fashioned favourites - two parts thistle to one part candytuft. Instead the RHS's long established seed distribution service offers a comprehensive list to whet the appetite of even the most jaded of propagators.

But for just the price of the postage (£2.50) the 200,000 members can apply for 20 packets of seed choosing from an extensive list that covers alpines, annuals, shrubs, trees and perennials.

The practice of giving out the surplus seed gathered from the gardens at Wisley dates back to 1943, when the RHS was asked to help the war linated plants in the gardens as well

expect to see glued to the front of the first issue of Everything You Need to Know about Gardening – a complete guide in 97 weekly instal-

half a million packets annually to members all round the world. For 1996 the KHS first runs to 946 choices. The summer's hot weather was good news for Wisley's sun worshippers, the plants from Mediterranean and other hot climates which flowered well and produced more seed than usual. Fremortodendron californicum with its showy yellow howers is one of the Strictly speaking, the service is not summer's successes says Marion free, being for RHS members only. vice. The daisy flowered osteospermum and arctoris also thrived in the heat. This year's list also features 21 different salvias. Among the perennial favourities, delphiniums regularly top the list with acquilegia.

Seed is collected from open pol-

bellebores and meconopis in strong

demand

means there are plants suitable for the house or conservatory.

to be in by 29 December and seeds charge is for postage. are dispatched between January and April. Although only a small probers apply, this year it is expected to. be oversubscribed, so it is important to list plenty of alternative choices. Some seeds are only available in small quantities. Among these are rarer plants such as the alpine penstemons and spring bulbs such as Frankana acmopetala.

The RHS is not the only society to offer free or very low cost seeds. The Hardy Plant Society, for example, where there is a £10 annual fee, offers up to 15 packets of seed, with only the postage costs to pay. The seed is all donated by members, and this year the list runs to over 2,600 species and varieties.

Other groups offering seeds include the Alpine Garden Society (annual membership £15), and the

Cyclamen Society (£5 a year). The Cottage Garden Society (£5 a year) offers a choice of 2,500 varieties, and Application forms for seeds have as with the other groups the only

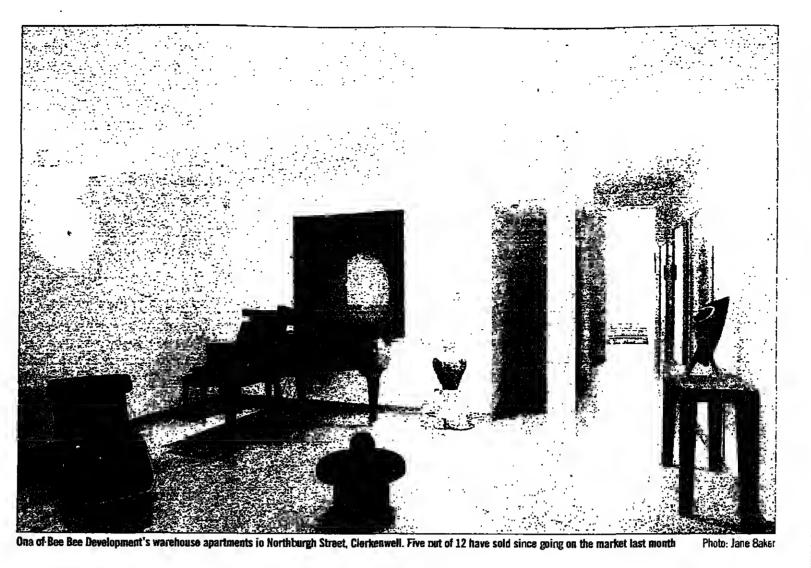
> If you are looking to join one of the groups or to buy membership as a Christmas present for someone else, it is important to do so before the end of December if you want to take advantage of seed distribution.

> > RHS membership costs £36, from the Membership Dept, The RHS, PO lact 313 Lundon SW1P 2PE. For a Christmas membership gift-pack call 0171-821 3000 as soon as possible. For the RHS seed list, send an SAE (9x6in) to Seed Applications, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB (0171-834 4333). Hardy Plant Society. 01386 7103317. Alpine Garden Society: 01386 554 790. Cyclamen Society: 01580 4240221. Cottage Garden Society: 01270 250776.



property

# A few years ago new housing was a byword for naff. Not any more



By Anne Spackman

en years ago the London buyer bad a choice between three types of property: an old house, a flat in a converted old house or a mansion block. Apart from Docklands, which few people considered to be part of London proper, new homes simply did not exist. became more attractive.

Now, suddenly, they are everywhere. Redundant offices, warehouses, hospitals and schools are baving their insides ripped out and turned into flats. Small patches of land in prosperous suburbs such as Richmond and Hampstead are being bought up for new family houses. Savills expects 4,000 new homes to be built in London in the next 18 months.

New housing was once a byword for naff. It conjured up rows of poorly built, poorly designed boxes divided into tiny rooms. Buyers generally preferred older properties because of their elegance, their room

Now, with people's lives dommated by long hours of work; the ritual of renovation is losing its charm. It's not that the love affair with old buildings is over, just that a new generation of buyers prefers them after they have had a face lift.

fringe areas of the capital. Clerkenwell, the most active new-build zone, between Islington and the City, has seen office rents fall from £30 to £10 a square foot over the past six years. Just as commercial development became uneconomic, so residential development

Only those developers still solvent after the crash could take advantage of the price falls. One that did was the Manhattan Loft Corporation, whose conversion of an industrial building in Summer Street into month in Northburgh Street, loft shells was about the only successful development in a miserable 1992. It was one of the first schemes to offer large, urban spaces at a price the leather jacket crowd could afford, and it set the tone for the entire Clerkenwell/King's Cross rejuvenation which is now under way.

This is singles territory, with bikes rather than buggies on the sizes, ceiling heights and period streets and new restaurants ing 20 flats all the same, a level features. In London they had no opening up every month. Two supermarkets are currently looking for premises in the neighbourhood and more between an empty shell - very much a nicbe market for the than 300 new apartments are already in the pipeline for 1996. The most concentrated rede-

velopment site is a seven and a ner Building, a red brick warehalf acre block owned by Bee Bee Developments, which is The fashion for modernity is keen to recreate a New York vil- £175.000. in part a consequence of the lage atmosphere. By controlling over-supply of office space in such a large area – it includes 48

buildings - the company hopes to maintain a balance between homes, shops, offices and restaurants. "We feel there is a

certain logic to living in the City. close to work, in an environment which is a bit of fun and where you can buy a flat for £50 a square foot less than in the west," said Craig Best of Bee Bee Developments. 'There has got to be a bit of value in it for people. We don't want to see prices rising too fast."

The first apartments within their site were released last where five out of 12 have already sold. Customers can choose their own finishes and colours but the style is generic "loft" - wood floors and open plan living with simple, modern lines in the kitchens and bathrooms. There will be a gym on the ground floor.

The idea of customer choice is a growing trend in the newbuild market. Instead of offerof bespoke service is being introduced. Buyers can choose purists - a partly fitted flat. or a place ready to move into. Such a scheme operates at the Banhouse near the Barbican, where prices range from £94,500 to

While demand for singles' homes is strong in the city,

### Who to ask

For lofts/warehouse conversions Manhattan Loft Corporation 0171-531 1888; Northburgh Street from Hamptons in Islington 0171-225 4688 and Jarvis Keller 0171-251 9226; Banner Building from Urban Spaces 0171-251 6661; large shell lofts at York Central in King's Cross Irom £155,000-450,000 from Pilcher Hershman 0171-486 5256 and Alan Selby 0171-615 3055; Warner Lofts, oright white block in Clerkenwell Irom 0171-713 1544; Bridge London Ltd. estate agents newly based in Clerkenwell Green, 0171-251 3636; converted Victorian school development In Battersea from Sapcote 0171-937 3878; converted tea warehouse by Metropolis at Oingley Place, London EC1 0171-234 0288.

For family houses Royal Thames Crescent by 8arratt at Chiswick, priced Irom £200,000-500,000, 0181-987 9032; Berkeley Homes' Barnes Waterside development 0181-748 1748, also Irom Knighl Frank & Rutley (0171-824 8171) and Boileau 8raxton (0181-741 7400); Berkeley is also converting an old hospital site in the centre of Hampstead, providing apartments and houses from £155,000-685,000, Knight Frank & Rutley (0171-431 8686); Pamlion Properties is building eight houses at Inverforth Close in Hampstead Garden Suburb, priced from £375,000-1.3m, Savills (0171-431 4844) and Goldschmidt and Howland (0171-435 4404); Try Homes will have nine four/five-bedroom terraced

demand for family houses is mond it sold 44 town houses pushing up prices in the "viland apartments in three which ring the capital. months. But by far their most spec-

tacular development is at

Barnes, where Berkeley is huild-

ing 321 new homes around a

nature reserve in a loop of the

Thames. The reserve will be the

largest urban wild fowl and wet-

lands site in Europe, with a

sophisticated pumping system

for raising and lowering water

levels to attract different birds.

four-storey apartment blocks to town houses, to semis to a

couple of vast detached homes

in an acre of garden. One has

already been sold to a city solic-

itor for £1.8m. With the first

houses still two months from

completion 46 have been sold.

William Cave, who has bought a

four-bedroom house by the pond

at the centre of the development.

He can watch it go up from the

hack of his present home a few

hundred yards away. What had

gant villa for a new home? "It

was really the cold and inconve-

nience of an old house," said Mr

Cave, a retired television pro-ducer. "I wanted double win-

dows, insulated walls and more

bathrooms per bedroom. And I

did not want to leave Burnes, I

have lived here for 35 years. Yet

one does have the culture shock

tle ones." he added.

The very first buyer was

The properties range from

The most prominent companies in this market are Barratt and Berkeley Homes, Barratt has completed 2,000 homes in the capital over the past 12 months, the majority of them in Docklands. One of its latest projects is on the Thames at Chiswick. where the first show home on the Royal Thames Crescent development of apariments and large town houses opened last week.

Berkeley Homes, which oper-ates as a series of regional companies, is a relatively new name to London huyers. Tony Pidgley, the head of the Berkeley group, said: "We took a conscious decision when everyhody stopped building that we would make a drive into Londoo. With prices having fallen from £1.000 to £200 a square foot, it did not seem to me to be a tremendous

Since then they have been putting up everything from one-persuaded him to leave his eleedroom flats to the large family houses which made Berkeley's name in the country. In the last 18 months Berkeley Thames Valley has built in Richmond, Barnes, Putney and Fulhum. In Putney the company did a development of just two large five-bedroom semidetached homes and sold them off-plan (before they were built) of going from huge rooms to litfor £550,000 each. In Rich-

Househunter Boxford, Suffolk



The well-proserved Georgian I facade of Kingsbury House fronts the conservation area of Swan Street in this pretty Suffolk village with a river running through it. The house has three reception rooms with period features, a large kitchen, six bedrooms and a separate studio/workshop in the south-facing garden, with Boyford Church beyond, Strutt & Parker in Ipswich (01473 214841) is asking £218.000).

### For What It's Worth

Further evidence of a halt to the slide in house prices came from the Nationwide and Halifax Building Societies last week. which reported monthly increases of 1.5 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively for the month of November, This still means prices are more than one per cent down on last year and is being seen more as a sign of prices stabilising than increasing. The one area where prices have risen over the past 12 months is in the new homes sector, where the Halifax records an average house price of £69,171 compared with £60.706 for second-hand properties.

Another encouraging note comes from the Bidwells group of estate agents hased in East . Anglia. The normally sluggish month of November turned out to he their best month for husiness in 1995, Jock Lloyd-Jones. the head of Bidwells, sees this as further evidence of the waning of the seasons in the housing market. He will be one of many agents advising potential sellers to go to the market as soon as they are ready, as it no longer makes sense to wait for the traditional spring season.

### Who's Moving

**Qir John Harvey-Jones had** Obeen planning a spring sale for his Grade I Elizahethan manor in Ross-on-Wye. The former ICI chairman is moving to a smaller property up country near Hay-on-Wye. Strutt & rker was planning to put Rudhall Manor on the market with a £850,000-900,000 guide price. The house has six main bedrooms, three reception rooms, an indoor swimming pool and a cottage in 10 acres of gardens. But they didn't need a marketing campaign. The first person they fold about the house snapped it up immediately.

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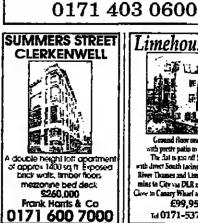
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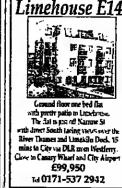
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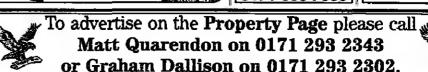


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# £1.20 buys you a seat on the st St

Simon Calder takes the 38 bus from Victoria to Clapton Pond

ritaio's best tourism bargain is red, 14ft 6in high and holds 77 passengers (though the last five on must stand). A one-way ticket costs £1.20 for adults, 30p for children and nothing at all for senior citizens. Catch the number 38 bus on the long and winding hus lane past Buckingham Palace and the Ball's Pond Road. On a good day it covers the seven miles in under an hour, and reveals a startling cross-section of the capital.

Ever since the terminus was completed, opulence has been wearing off Victoria Station; important international trains now terminate at Waterloo. Skipping and slipping over spilt diesel in the squalid shed that passes as a bus station, you should find a 38 waiting in bay 1. One leaves at least every six minutes during the day, the timetable says, though people shivering at stops along the way might dispute such confidence.

Except on Sundays (when a nasty modern vehicle is substituted), the 38 route is plied by the Routemaster. This icoo of transport design was huilt specifically for the capital, though the modest double-decker has since found employment as far away as Sri Lanka. The Romemaster began running in 1954, and since then no one has come up with a better vehicle for the city's streets. Its lines are clean, its curves graceful and its open platform an ideal solution to traffic congestion - gridlocked passengers can just hop off.

Four sets of traffic lights in the first quarter-mile provide pleoty of opporfunities for latecomers to step aboard. Suddenly the shambles around the statioo gives way to the back gardeo of a large private house. Upper-deck pas-seogers get a view denied to all but Gardeo Party invitees.

Grab the front seat, and you see the theory behind the regal sweep into Hyde Park, now disfigured by a swirl of vehicles. Pride of place is seized by the Winged Victory of Samothrace, a chariot swooping above the arch celebrating victory in the Great War.

The imperious sandstone of the huilding by the park gate bears the address: Number One, Londoo. This Robert Adam mansion, officially known as Apsley House, was built for the Duke of Wellington in the 1770s. It was the centrepiece of a grand oco-Classical terrace at the western entrance to Westminster, but the neigh-

1960s bout of insanity that caused Hyde Park Corner to be degraded to the capital's biggest gyratory system. The house re-opened this summer and cootains one of Londoo's least-known collections of fine art. Its address stems from wheo a toll-booth greeted visitors from the west, Apsley House was the first structure you reached.

These days, everyone racing in from the west congeals in the traffic here. Hello, Piccadilly: what in most cities would be a grand prospect ends up being the last leg of the M4 motorway. The majesty of the street is evident only to those oo the top deck, who can discern the grand underlying theme to the half-mile-long approach to the Circus.

One in nine of all the huses everywhere in Greater London passes Pic-cadilly Circus, making it the hub of London Transport's operations. Inbound buses now have to take a long detour, hut your outbound hus slices straight past Eros and on to Shaftesbury Avenue - arguably the world centre of commercial drama. You pass only three theatres, since most of the theatrical West End is north and south of here. A more striking image is the first cross-cultural encounter coming up on the right, as you brush up against Chinatown. The stretch from Cambridge Circus past newly-listed Centrepoint and into New Oxford Street is plain urban vulgarity.

Crossing Southampton Row, look to the right for the trash-laden entrance to the old tram tunnel that once provided a fast track through the capital. The least said about the conglomeration of 1960s had ideas along Theobald's Road, the better. It is redeemed first by oumber five, DJM House, the imposing town house where Eltoo John first made his musical way in the world. Since the pop publisher Dick James Music went into decline, a public relations company has takeo it over and installed a natty bar at street level - but only for staff and clients. Adjacent, the expansive acres of Gray's Ino Gardens are also closed to ordinary mortals.

Rosebery Avenue, where you sweep left, is oot just the most mis-spelled street oo the 38 route - it also conceals some underground wooders. First, the sorting office at Mount Pleasant is Britain's higgest, and the heart of the Post Office's private tube line. Next, the headquarters of Thames Water is a collusion of buildbours were demolished in the same ings and earthworks known as New

scale diverted an underwater channel val Mural depicts the devil in the midst here. On a more modest scale, a of a multicultural celebration.

Plaque on the ornate Finsbury Town With luck the bus will cover the next Hall informs you it was the place that mile along Graham Road with disof Commons: Dadabhai Naoraji represented Central Finsbury for the Liberals in the 1890s. Opposite, the British HQ of Amnesty International

marks but one of several noble causes

whose offices are located on the cor-

ner of Amwell Street.

the Monopoly board, but these days it looks overpriced. Any angelic proper-ties have been submerged beneath one of the capital's scruffier crossroads. More inappropriate names are just ahead Upper Street is middle class, and Essex Road doesn't go to the county. It does, however, mark the boundary into Zone 2 of the capital's transport system. There could easily be furniture becomes more unpredictable. Off to the left, a hot promising Quality Shellfish carries a perfunctory explanation for being closed: "When out here, gone fishing for them."

Essex Road is often a river of red.

The 73 bus seems to be breeding in card. Off to one side, the towering Stoke Newington, judging from the mumber of them trawling for passengers and jostling with the 38 for road space. The best breathing space is the broad sweep of Annett's Crescent, recoiling constitution in the spruce façade of Hackney Elevanthy from the throughfare.

elegantly from the throughfare.
Ball's Pond Road begins impromisingly, but give it a chance and it suddenly becomes the most splendid street on the 38 route. On the right, Brunswick Place is a terrace that everything else on the Lower Clapseems to stretch forever, tainted only ton Road. The fige stooework is by a couple of factories bolted on to presently swathed in English Herthe western end. Left, the site which itage scaffolding, but it will soon rechose to build almshouses with the grace of palaces. The dwellings, arranged daintily around a courtyard, are protected by arrogant chim-

doned church, summing up the ethnic options are limited, you could make wealth of east London. It might your getaway on a trike from the become a mosque or a temple; the Chain Gaing bike shop, or in a Skoda worship possibilities are endless in a from Newton Motors. Best, though, Community Association sits next to the hack to Victoria.

River Head, so called because some African Video Centre: Across on Dal-Victorian plumbing on a monstrous ston Lane, the Hackney Peace Carni-

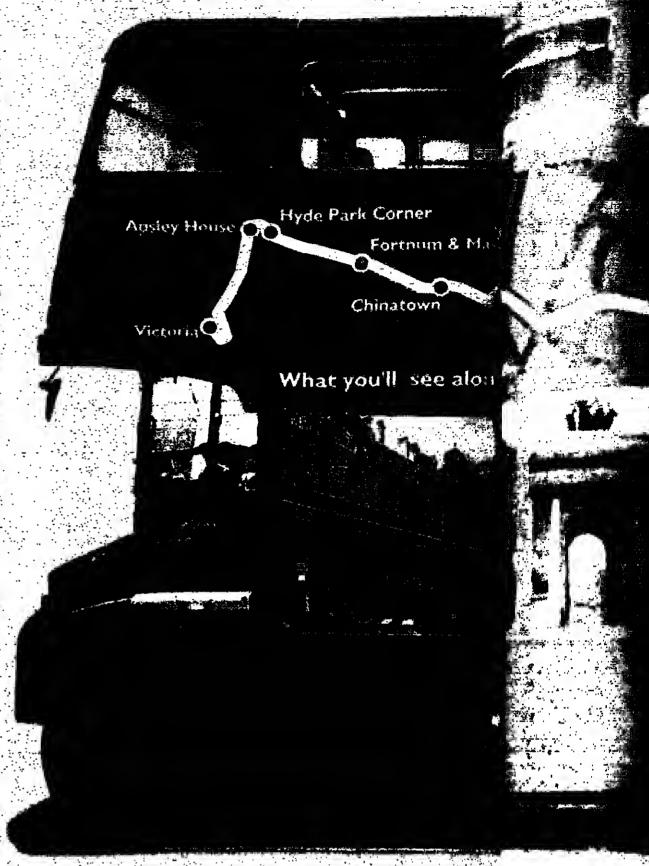
elected the first Asian to the House patch, so you need not dwell on crumbling grandeur. The closest the 38 gets to a hairpin bend is a sharp turn that cataputis you oo to the Hackney oneway system and pauses outside an beroic survivor. E Gibbons estabhished his Department Store in 1831: when Hackney was probably Europe's The Angel, Islington costs £120 on richest borough; now it is Britain's poorest. Not much has changed for Gibbons's store in terms of decor or, indeed, stock; the only concession to-"the 20th century is the acceptance of Visa cards.

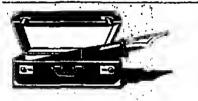
In no sense is it all downhill from here. The best flourish that the route can offer is around the corner. The bus climbs diagonally across the glorious Clapton Square. South, St John at a sign warning "Now entering subur- Hackney has maintained its austere bia". The landscape changes, the street grace through economic decline; north, the residential sense of order is disrupted by some modern atrocities but rescued by fading, ruddy leaves, hudding crocuses and a scattering of snow that makes it as pretty an ensemble as any New England picture post-Public Baths and the art deco Strand Building.

One more triumph lies on the final straight: the United Reformed Church, a temple that diminishes the Metropolitan Benefit Societies : open as the jewel in Clapton's tar-

mished crown.
Ball's Fried has long evaporated, but the 38 siminus at Clapton Pond supports a small population of malney stacks that battle for prominence lands. Welcome to blackney's Parks, with a festion of turrets, every one a coos a notice, but all the gales are miniature folly.

Building with religious use for subject of subject of statistically school best to the sale, announces the sign on an aban. Journey, itself. From here, your quarter where the Hackney Cypriot to take an instant re-run on the bus:





something to declare

### Bargain of the week

XINDEPENDE

The first-ever charter flights between the UK aod Costa Rica begin on Tuesday. Return tickets costing £515 (prices go up in Fehruary) are available from Voyages Jules Verne (0171-723 5066). Having found your way to San José, the capital, go oo a magical tour of Central America's most stunning scenery – you need invest only \$50 (£30). This huys a return bus trip to Panama City along the Pao-American Highway. You must book locally, through Panaline's office at the Continental Hotel in San José.

### Trouble spots

This week's advice from our man in the Foreign Office

Poland: There have been a number of bombings in Warsaw, carried out by rival gangs, but foreigners have oot been targeted. There is a serious risk of robbery at stations and on trains.

Western Sahara: We advise against travel in the territory. Travel is restricted. Overland travellers may well be turned back at Dakhla.

Kenya: Muggings and armed attacks can occur anywhere and at any time, particularly in Nairobi and Mombasa. Armed car-jackings are prevaleot in the Nairobi area and oo the Nairohi-Magadi road. Do not attempt to escape from hijackers or resist their demands.

France: Exercise sensible precautions, particularly in official and public places such as airports, railways and metro stations, British business premises and shops.

Foreign Office travel advice is available on 0171-270 4129; on BBC2 Ceefax page 564 onwards; and on the Internet at http://www.fco.gov.uk/

Visitors' book

Penyclawdd Court, near Abergavenny A lot of green, sheep, rain and - Antonella

- Bruce, San Francisco

- Ruth, San Francisco

Like staying in a time capsule - Trevor and Hazel, Evesham

Black pudding was my favourite

You may have woodered why we were acting a little strange oo the Sunday. I proposed to Nicky after dinner - Gip, Twickenham

The best place ever to spend our

### A likely story

'It is as easy to get married in Las Vegas as it is to get a TV licence' - 'Essentially America' magazine, winter 1995

f marriage, like life, is a lottery, where better to place your bets than in the gambling capital of the world? All you need, according to this lifestyle and travel magazine, is a spouse, a passport, \$35 (£21) in cash and to be free to marry.

About 100,000 marriage licences are issued each year in Las Vegas, compared with 21.5 million TV licences in Britain. I have just bought one of the latter, and found the experience largely

While the Las Vegas courthouse keeps longer hours than any British post office (8am to midnight, and around the clock at weekeods), it merely takes care of the legal formalities. You have to make your way to one of the dozens of wedding chapels that line the Strip for the actual ceremony. You must chose from places of worship like the Little Church of the West and the Graceland Wedding Chapel, both of which looked to me like the worst sort of prefabricated New Town churches with even poorer ambience. So perhaps your betrothed would prefer an inflight ceremony in a hehcopter hovering above Glitter Gulch, or the eminently practical drive-thru wedding.

Even if you take this highspeed option, the whole nuptial procedure could make a dent of an hour in your valuable gambling time. Even with Christmas-length queues at the post office, you would be unlucky indeed to spend this long queuing for a TV licence. And the \$35 is just for legal fees; the wedding chapel will give yoo a price list for the actual ceremony, and discreetly suggest

how much to tip the minister.
At £86.50 (shortly to increase to £90) a colour televisioo licence is a big investment. However, if yoo change your mind you could always sell the TV, you get a refund on the uoused portion of the licence. Doo't try this with a marriage licence, even one issued

### What is the silliest name that an up with to disguise the fact that flying economy? Answers on a bo



SIMON CALDER

Diease accept my resignation.

I don't want to belong to any club that would accept me as a member." With these words Groucho Marx is said to have withdrawn from the Friars Club. He would have approved of the British Airways Executive Club, which is preparing to expel or downgrade thousands of members. Mrs U Forinton of County Cork is one of them. Until now, if you could demonstrate you fleet fre-

demonstrate you flew fre-queotly enough on BA, then the company gave a gold or silver card entitling you to use the lounges at many airports.

Now the policy is to look at how much you pay for your tickets before deciding whether or not to re-issue a card. So Mrs Forinton is being frozen out because the airline "is committed to rewarding its loyal, full-fare paying passeogers" - in other words, those in the cheap seats are to be

barred from BA lounges. Airlines try to ease us gently into those cheap seats by describing them as anything other than "economy": World Traveller is promising, while Elizabethan Class sounds positively opulent, but these are the names, new and old, used by British Airways for the cramped hit at the back of planes. When Richard Branson started Virgin Atlantic, he wanted to name his two grades of service "Upper Class" and "Riff-Raff". The first stuck, the second was over-ruled by marketing people who have held sway ever oame that an airline has com up with to disguise the fact the you are really flying economy. Answers on a boarding pass,

We do not try to pretent place, and carry regular wart ings from our man in the Foreign Office (see opposite about threats to travellers. Bt having just returned from S Lanka, Jane Westlake of Lor doo takes issue with the Figure warnings and the Watchde programme about the islance She has just returned from " trip around the Indian and continent, ending in Sri Lak

"Security is indeed high i'
Colombo [the capital], and you you go into a public building q shop. Anyone who lived in Lor doo during the IRA campaig will have a sense of deja vi. Th best thing is to spend as little time as possible in Colomb: and enjoy the ancient cities, lushill country and beautifu beaches. As Marco Polo saic it's undoubtedly the fines island of its size in the world.

the power of guide books t distort a destination is evident in many parts of thi. world, but it sounds as if Die Tien Hoang Street in the Viet namese city of Hue takes th hiscuit (or the prawn cracker)

According to Planet Talk, ocwsletter of Looely Plane Publications, it is lined with cafés whose owners all claim b. have no power of speech. The book Vietnam: a Travel Sur vival Kit recommends the La Tahn restaurant at number 6 and mentions that the owner is mute. So to cash in on the backpacker trade, other cash have sprung up alongside, al pretending to have silent proprietors. The sight, as you walk along to select a meal, it since. So what is the silliest said to be hysterical.

Travel is by scheduled flights to Geneva plus return transfer to Crans Montana. (Please note air supplement of £49 from Manchester applies). Accommodation is at the 3-star Hotel Crans-Mani on a half-board basis for seven nights and all rooms have private facilities. This represents exceptional value for money for skiing in Switzerland Reg. in England 1908987 Newspaper Publishing PLC All holidays are ABTA bonded (E7775)

including half board

Flights direct from Heathrow.

Departures 6th, 13th; 20th,

The best Swiss Ski offer this season

or Manchester. The resort is Crans

Montana where there is some of the

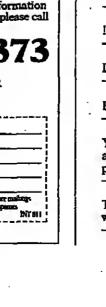
best skiing to be found in the Alps.

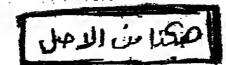
with flights from Heathrow, Gatwick

Gatwick or Manchester

or 27th January







# I West sightseeing to



Graphic: Mark Havman

Six places to eat en route Hard Rock Café, Pipragris, Parking the The Mousetrap line enduring by Uail ty of the queue outside this transportance matitution is hard to end-aim. The oil regard are resoluthe memoral, "a modernioly

Fortnum & Mason, Parcadia Herterrope tea: 3-5.25pm daily 0.10 50.

Aifred's juristion of New Outer (Scand Brightesbury Alle, of in incopra le bensille. The Japanese Conteen of John offeet lat under a fiver, the upon with salmer is an mingeing soup that fills ia lia lias and c the hunghest direct

Ruby in the Bust (Upper Electric American districts I declicitly thogran

Paga Restourant Louver Clabron Pload-rubber grants run not all over the front a printal concessing a lief Huser bur blear งคายล อเรอลารเกรู ที่สโดงกเล ดงละให้โลยรั cultivened with the most testly during and scuency to sisce of the Thames. The nest of the bunch.

Six places to be entertained

Victoria Palace Theatre, 0171-864 1897 . . chan in this we in swiger -Fizza on the Park Ingita Park Comar หมิธิวิธีหมิธิธี ซึมิวิธี (หรือ) หาวหล้าในวัศทร Winstone (เหลิว อัพภาษ

Gialgud Theatre, Shattesbury Alle, 1971-494 60657 Communicating coorsity Fran Evol Boom, clariting Julia Mothengra. Corzon West End. Shahestury Avenue. (0171-369 1701). Shanghay thad, appropriately showing usbasite.

The Screen on the Groen, Ciripe: Street (0173-205 3500). The Enormers McMuken, nev iromanilo comedy. Disgraceland Ersey Phag (0171-354) 3369), rock venue, festoring Grateful. Dupb tonight.

Six books to read on the journey London Fields by Hartin Amis (the 38 passes within 400 yards of the eponymous meadows.

84 Charing Cross Road by Heiene Hann tine 38 traverses the other side of Cambridge Circus from the Jamous bookshopi.

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy by John Le Carté, Couzing on the former fills HQ at Cambridge Circus Rough Guide to London by Rob

The Big Red Train Ride b. Eric Newby, for a small red bus ride.

By Bus to the Sahara by Gordon West. who was term a century agos his classic of early 20th-century tronel waiting has just been teresued by Black Stron (26,99).

### line has come u are really ing pass

ore on the great British eclipse of the 1920s. inthony d'Avray of Bognor calls his part in the spaceme continuom: "I saw the stal eclipse, on a hot, dry early orning at New Allerton in otts. We all got up very early ad had the smoked class that: ewspapers advised us to use. le flung open the upper floor indows and gawped. The scitement really was extraor-

inary." Mr d'Avray gives his ge as "then 11, now 79". Philip Robinson of Sheffield. inpoints the precise date as June 1927, and reminds vistors to Cornwall on 11 August 999 tu "Book that B&B".

### JK DEPARTURES

tained glass in Ely Cathe-dral. William Morris's )xford and "Hidden Northmpton" are three of the tudy days organised nextpring by Inscape Fine Art durs (01993 891726). The ost of each is £25-£30, includng admission fees.

wo new backpackers' nostels lare open for business. The Oxford Backpackers' Hostel-01865 721 761) is located midvay between the rail and bus tations on Hythe Bridge Street, and costs £0 a night for dormitory bed. Riviera-Backpackers 101803 5501001. 50 metres from the beach at Paignton in Devon, charges.

wo seaside hotels are profinding activity breaks over the winter aimed at visually handicapped people. The Resis Hotel in Bognor Regis and the Lauriston Hotel in Mesion-super-Mare are nunming themed weeks, under the auspices of Action For Blind People (0171-732 8771)-

### Head north for Hogmanay

You can now fly to Scotland for as little as £29. By Simon Calder

mid-twenties of December, but to the far more significant cel-ebration on the last day of the year. Flight bookings to Scotland for Hogmanay are heavier than ever, not least because of the sudden increase in capacity from the London area. Already seats are scarce for the long haul north on 31 December, but anyone who is flexible about their dates can take advantage of the fares war that has broken out over flights to Edinburgh and Glasgow over the last few weeks. The tange of options is given below, along with the *Independent*'s weighted cost calculation considerations. For this purpose, your time is calculated at the Labour Party's potential national minimum wage of £4 per hour, and is added for each leg of the journey to the

in central London (accessible from the 38 hus - see above) to Glasgow Cross.

### The newcomers

Sir Freddie Laker was the British pioneer of "no-frills" service, but EasyJet (01582 445566) has embraced the idea for its flights from Luton to Edinburgh and Glasgow. The first tranche of seats on each flight is sold at £29 single, with subsequent tranches at £39. £49 and £59. Air passenger duty of £5 is extra. You can't expect much for a fare of £29. and you don't get it. The denim-clad cabin crew will sell you a snack if you insist.

Luton is not the most popular airport in the south east. hut it is served by fast trains from King's Cross/St Paneras

nly 22 days remain. Not to total cost. For the purposes of takes about 45 minutes all in for a fare of £9.60; on the journey from Piccadilly Circus southbound journey, you set a voucher entitling you to half-

price travel. A bus from the airport to Glasgow city centre takes about 30 minutes and costs £4 return. You can walk from Buchanan Street bus station to

Glasgow Cross in 10 minutes Time: 3 hours 30 minutes. Cost: £79.40 Weighted raning: £107.40. First-footing torecast: nothing at the lowest fare left for New Year's Eve.

Ryanair (0171-435 7101) is now offering an all-expensespared service between Signsted and Prestwick, two of the UK's less fashionable airports. Both have rail connections, and this is where Ryanair really scores. It has negotiated rail hargains at both ends. The link from London's Liverpool Street to Stansied costs £7 and a connecting bus. The trip return, while at Prestwick you



Party on: Glasgow can be as little as three hours from Piccadilly Circus

get, amazingly, a free ticket to any station in Scotland. The Prestwick line is not the fastest in the nation, but takes you to Photograph, Michael Cent . Impact

Central Station, a short walk from Glasgow Cross. The air fare has been cut to

is not available on all flights: higher tares of £79 or £99 may apply. Unlike EasyJer, you can book through a travel agent. Time: 4 hours, Cost: \$70. Weighted rating: \$102, Firstfooting forecast: good northbound up to and including 31. December, poor southbound

### at the lowest fare until 4 Jun. The frequent fivers

The established airlines from Heathrow, British Airways though takes longer than from (0345-222111) and British Heathrow because of the entra Midland (0345 554554) have a problem: they have established high-frequency, high-quality services to Scotland's two largest cities and do not want compromise their reputations. Result: every passenger, whethor they have paid the unre-stricted fare of £274 teturn or British Midland's Ensyletmatching 658 (plus tay) gets business-class service.

stats at this price are rare. Weighted rading: £97. Firstfeeling torce (sti Poor.)

### The Gatwick afternative

V 38 bir from Piccadilly Cir-cus cloudd drop you at Victo-ria Station in 15 minutes: Claswick Express takes naif an hour to the hisport - making it. as quies to reach as Heathrow. though twice as (a). The Air UK (0345) (000777) flight, though tales longer than from

distance from Glasgow. Time: 3 hours 40 minutes. Cost: £54,40, though you can trim it a bit by using a slower. cheaper train to Satwick. Weighted rating: £100.73. First-footing forecast; surpris-ingly, there is oill some north-bound to obtabling at the lowest date for the 5.15pm New Year's Eve departure - but the curliest return date is 5 January. £58 return oplus taxi, but this Time: 3 hours. Cost: £73, but and from Edinburgh at that.



LAST RESORT FAIR ISLE

### Twenty-five hours from Glasgow — by air

the last habitable extreme of the British Isles. ! think ! have found it. However cheap and quick your route to Glasgow, you will find the farthestflung outpost of British Airways Highlands and Islands network requires a further 25hour journey via Inverness, Kirkwall, Sumburgh in Shetland (where you are obliged to stay overnight) and Tingwall. This, I repeat, is by air. And when you get there, the challenge is only just beginning. Exploring an island two

easy task. But Fair Isle has 26 seemed that every house had a miles of the most rugged and beautiful coastline in Britain. You want to take your time the place. It is owned by the here, to savour it all. Where National Trust for Scotland, else would you find such a which manages the island combination of high cliffs, assiduously, It is slowly rebuildtremendous sea stacks, terrific ing many exisiting dwellings waves and birds - puffins, cor- and inviting peuple to apply to morants, greater black back live in previously untenanted gulls, terns, skuas.

When I last visited, the island's close cropped grass had taken over the small runway, despite the planes frequently landing and taking off. deep coloured Agas. Now the miles by three, with one road Every croft had a carefully idea is that new tenants com-

wonderful view. Pair Isle is a busy, thriving lat-

crofts. And this seems a halcyon place to live. The homes of the islanders 1 met were lovely: hig kitchens with stripped, polished floors and

If you ever wondered about and an offshoot, should be an tended vegetable garden and it ing to the island will bring away and have to make comwith them crafts and families as plicated arrangements to come a boat builder, a violin maker. Look it in turns to the out the a stained glass worker and a spinning wheel maker. All this in addition to the Fair isle knitting co-operative for which the island is well removined.

We visited the home of Mr. and Mrs Thomson to try some of the 56 Fair Isle spinning wheels that he has made. We weren't there to buy, though, All the spinning wheels had already been sold - Mr Thomson has never had to advertise and the buyers often live far

well as crofting skills. There is to collect their wheels. We wheels and found that the best of them to spin with had been made from beech simply collected as driftwood. It was a wrench to drag ourselves away and as we left Mr Thomson's cosy kitchen, he played us a Shetland ree! on his fiddle the tune continued to haunt us

Ann Smith

Sherland Tourist Board, Lerwick (01595-693434)



Puffins inhabit Fair Isle's rugged coastline

٠.;

By David Follows

he *Komsomolsk* was late. Nobody, even the agents, knew when it would arrive. So we waited in Fremantle getting increasingly twitchy since our three-month Australian visas expired at the end of April.

Fortunately, the Komsomolsk's black hull loomed into harbour on 30 April, and we scrambled aboard. It was a 34,000 ton cargo ship, property of the Baltic Shipping Company of Russia; a ro-ro built, ominously, in a Baltic shipyard. Its cargo was loaded and unloaded over a huge ramp at the stern that descended at an angle on to the dockside in port, but which stuck up like a motorway to heaven while at sea. Since the Komsomolsk had proved uneconomical, the owners had recently decided to take passengers in addition to cargo. Our trip to Felixstowe would take a month, with calls en route at Jeddah and Genoa.

We had already sailed with several cargo ships serving different parts of the world, and enjoyed the voyages. Usually only a handful of passengers can be accommodated, there are no "entertainments", and a very relaxing voyage is guaranteed providing you hit it off reasonably well with the other passengers. In this case they were Australian and oumbered five and a half. the half being a farmer who was shepherding 166 containers of Tasmanian onions to Europe, so he was half crew, half passenger.

We had been warned before embark-ing on the Komsomolsk that these Russian ships were pretty basic. There was, however, a reasonably sized swimming pool (for crew as much as passengers); the newly equipped cabins were adequate, and thanks to the ingeouity of Nicolai, the chief cook, the meals were interesting, though even he couldn't make hard bread and cold beetroot soup appetising.

to communicate with the crew. Most of flying fish take off to avoid our silent the officers could speak English but seldom bothered. The dark, sinister doc-

How to hitch a ride on a cargo ship

A voyage on a passenger-carrying cargo ship is a perfectly feasible, if potentially expensive, way to see the world. The Strand Cruise and Travel Centre (0171-836 6363), based in the underground shopping concourse at Chaning specialises in this mode of transport. P&O Containers has a regular service costing £1,900 one-way to any Australian port, or £2,200 to New Zealand; these prices are per person including ful board. NSB of Germany and ABC of Belgium have round-the-world itineraries, taking in both the Suez and Panama canals.

### What to read

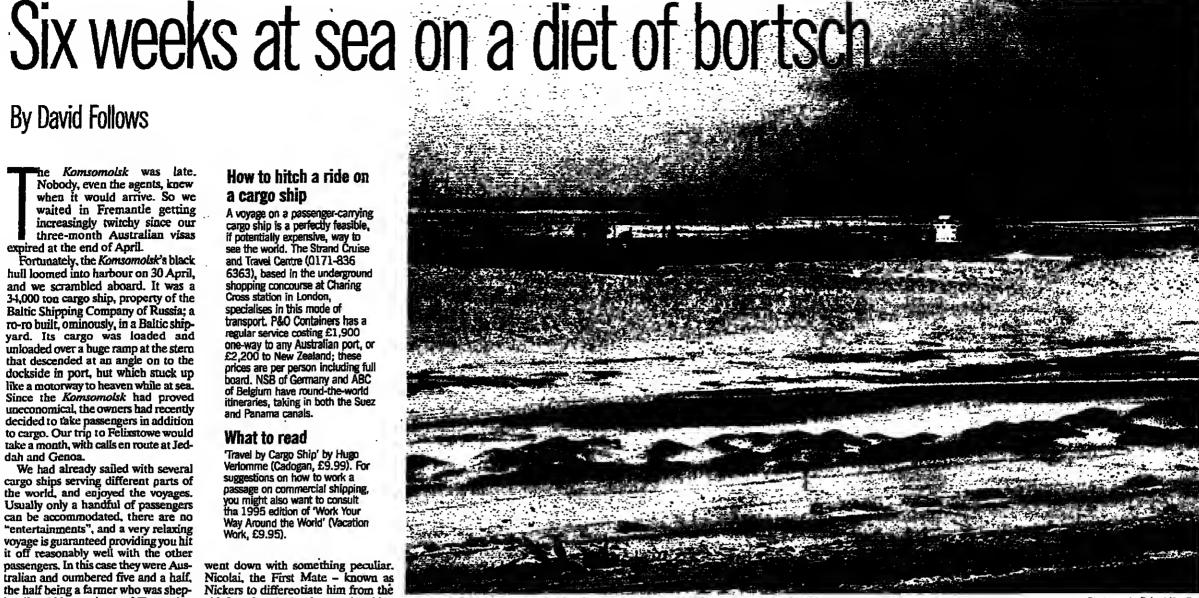
'Travel by Cargo Ship' by Hugo Verlomme (Cadogan, £9.99). For suggestions on how to work a passage on commercial shipping you might also want to consult tha 1995 edition of 'Work Your Way Around the World' (Vacation

went down with something peculiar. Nicolai, the First Mate - known as Nickers to differeotiate him from the chief cook - had a hearty, laughing approach to the language which usually descended into gobbledegook when he was fielding awkward ques-tions. Information, like most things in Russia, was in short supply.

The Indian Ocean and the Red Sea gave us some superb oature shows. Dolphins - or were they porpoises? could often be seen nearby, arching their backs in gracious curving leaps. Hunting, or just showing off? Or you could walk the deck round the stacked eetroot soup appetising.

cootainers to the distant sharp eod of the main drawback was our failure

cootainers to the distant sharp eod of the ship and there watch the amazing prow, eventually subsiding into the sea sometimes 30 or more metres away. As tor couldn't, which was tough if you daylight faded, the horizon would cloak



At a standstill just before the Swez Canal, where a toll is extracted from ships passing through

itself in layers of gold, red and purple.

Arriving at Jeddah, passengers were oot allowed off the ship and we were not allowed to take photographs. Before reaching port, all alcoholic drinks had been confiscated and secreted away into bond (the ship was "dry" so passengers had to bring their own refreshments with them). We thought the ship and its cootents belooged to Russia, regardless of location, but the Captain was taking no chances with Sandi laws.

Egypt, fortunately, was more secu-lar, but our arrival off Suez brought a different problem: mooey. Specifically the Suez Canal toll of \$205,000 which

amount was, er, oot to hand immediately. One day's delay became two, three, eventually five. We thought of a whip-round, but seven and a half passengers couldn't make much of a dent in the sum oeeded. So we indulged instead in a trip to Cairo and the pyramids while the Komsomolsk waited.

This turned out to be oot a good idea. The drive across the awful desert, with only a few sad Army camps hreaking the moootony, was made in two hired mini-buses. The drivers - in the red corner, Stirling Moss, in the blue, Nigel Mansell - competed furiously all the way, and got us to Cairo in record not Russians at all." time and in a record state of hysteria.

The Canal was eventually oegoti- we said, glancing up at the blue, white ted, and friendly Europe hove in and red flag and the Cyrillic spelling of ated, and friendly Europe hove in sight. All problems solved? Not a hit of it. We were arrested in Geooa. The ship, that is, not us persocally. The reason for the arrest, it seems, was that a sister ship, carrying paper from Brazil to Italy some three years before, had discharged its cargo in a dirty and damaged state, and had been fined by the Italians as a result. The fine had not

"Bot Komsomolsk is registered in Limassol, in Cyprus. They cannot legally arrest us." Nickers said, "Ve are

been paid.

You could have fooled us, Nicolai,"

the ship's name.

We finally escaped on this technicality. A smartly dressed gent came aboard with a brief case, disappeared into the Captain's cabin, and shortly reappeared and sailed away. Tension for half an hour. Had we been released? Suddenly the engioes throbbed into life, Nickers did a little dance on the bridge and gave us the

thumbs up sign. So we sailed off. Throughout the entire journey (by oow extended to six weeks) we had seen oo rain. Guess what met us in

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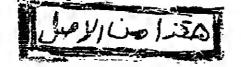
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travel



# Purple haze on the horizon

Jimi Hendrix was inspired there. Orson Welles filmed there. So how come Essaouira has stayed off the beaten track? By Rick Williams

he sun dropped below the horizon, sky and sea bathed in a haze of reds and purples. The wind died and the waves fell silent, the ebbing Atlantic exposing the collapsed Bordj El Berod fortress. I sat on a rock before its jagged silhouette, and tried to remember the words to the song.

It was the same drunken ruins and, for all I know, the same rock, which inspired Jimi Hendrix 30 years ago to write the soulful "Castles Made of Sand". That and Morocco's finest cash стор. The guitarist's visit to Essaouira

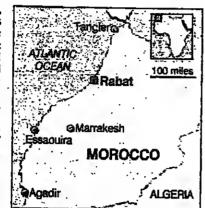
is now the stuff of legend.

I was about to go when a toothless, middle-aged man appeared. Meloud was a musician and local historian. Yes, he remembered Hendrix coming. No, he only stayed 10 days. Too busy with concerts and recordings. But Essaouira has changed little since then, he added.

"They wanted to make a big class." They wanted to make a big glass hotel," he said, "but the people stopped it." It now stands crumbling like the ruins, a reminder to property developers that Essaouira is saying "no" to

Getting in that morning, I was sur-prised by the absence of hustlers. Morocco has a large entry in any traveller's encyclopaedia of rip-off anec-dotes, the locals' zest for dealing and haggling coming as a Force 10 culture shock. But as I searched for a botel in Essaouira's maze of narrow streets, the only reaction I got was a polite smile and I almost felt neglected. Low doorways led into gloomy interiors, and a heady perfume of fish, seaweed and resinous smoke clung to the blue and white houses. Seaguils squawked and soared in the sky above while children played hopscotch with ocean-polished nebbles. ocean-polished pebbles.

My hotel room overlooked the ramparts, where an 18th-century cannon pointed out to a returning fleet of fishing trawlers. It was with a moody, pan-



ning shot of these Gothic walls that Orson Welles opened his 1952 version

Hendrix and Welles; for a provincial town miles from anywhere, Essaouira has impressive celebrity connections. But it's the truly laid-back atmosphere that bas made it a must for the independent traveller. And the surf.

Stretching south in a glorious threemile curve of golden sand, the beach was irresistible, the town end a melée of football matches and gymnastics.
Dodging tackles and uninhibited displays of press-ups and squat thrusts. I made my way down to the shore. A young boy sold me a fresh piece of coconut and a nomad in a blue turban offered me a ride on his camel. I declined, the animal baring its teeth and snorting with glee. It was a circus which ended half a mile on, sun blazing down on a scattering of sunbathers as I strolled through the waves.

The ruins of the Bordj El Berod mark the end of the hay, but the heach continues for another 15 miles to Sidi Kaouki, a Mecca for surfers and a 20minute hus ride away. Behind the ruins is the Berber village of Diabat where Hendrix stayed. Despite an official clampdown, it's still possible to rent houses there.

A mile out in the bay is the Île de Mogador. Once a prison for political exiles, it is now a nature reserve and the only non-Mediterranean breeding only non-Mediterranean breeding ground for the majestic Eleanora's falcon. It is possible to visit by boat but the best place to observe the birds is on the beach at sunset when they glide over the sea in search of insects. I witnessed one in breathtaking aerial combat. Launching itself off the sea, it bore down on a smaller bird who ducked and dived. It looked like the game was up when the falcon suddenly tired, the smaller bird escaped and I and several others applauded a memorable dogfight.

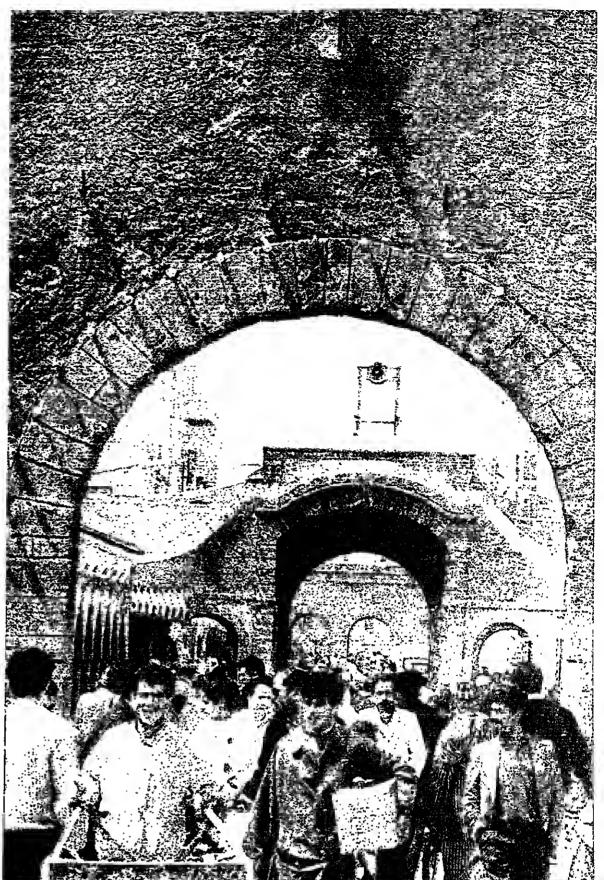
applauded a memorable doglight.

The Place Prince Moulay Hassan was the place to hang out in the evening drinking mint tea and watching the crowds. The flow of people was endless, women in traditional djellabas and their hands hennaed, mixing with younger girls in Western dress. Men stood chatting in groups and the shoeshing bus ting in groups and the shoeshine boys tried to convince me that they could do wonders for my canvas shoes. I are fish tajine and went shopping.

Thuya is an indigenous conifer whose hardwood and root possesses an exquisite grain. It has created a woodcarving and marquetry tradition in Essaouira whose craftsmanship is second to none. From tiny workshops built into the sea walls, artisans painstakingly create boxes, bowls, furniture and chessboards. There is little need to haggle. Prices start embarrassingly low and I staggered back to my hotel laden with gifts.

A week later, I flew back from Agadir, a Costa clone resort three Thuya is an indigenous conifer whose

Agadir, a Costa clone resort three hours down the coast. At the airport, the newspapers were full of articles about the 25th anniversary of Hendrix's death. The song finally came back to me. "And castles made of sand slip in the sea eventually". But Essaouira con-tinues to defy the seas of change.



Essaouira's bustling main thoroughfare, Rue Mohammed Zerkti

### British dukes have been replaced by sun worshippers and 'Sun' readers

Tangier is living in the shadow of its colonial past. By Hugh O'Shaughnessy

A frican life hits you full in the face As you disembark in Tangier. Forget the Marks & Speucer, Mothercare and red pillar boxes of Main Street, Gibraltar, on the other side of the Straits. Put aside: memories of the once-poor, now-prosperous Andalusians in Algeriras. This, with a vengeance, is Moslem Africa - poor, noisy, chaotic, infinitely exotic and stupendously interesting to the European eye. Tangier may bave become Portuguese in 1471 and been part of Catherine of Braganza's dowry when she married Charles II in 1661, and the British flag may have flown over the city for a few years, but that was a long time ago. Tangier has been firmly absorbed into the kingdom of

Check your money carefully at the hureau de change. Haggle with the taxi driver before you allow him to take you to your hotel. Stare at the men, some wearing crimson fezzes and hooded jellaba, drinking mint tea in the pavement cafes.

The women don't sit in cafes. Some veiled, some in brown wimples which make them look like Carmelite nuns, they glide about town doing more than their fair sbare of manual work.

There are two cities in Tangier. The one where people have been



living since Roman days is now mainly Islamic and centred on the making the garish jewellery Morocans love. The medina's grand walled city full of tiny houses with Moorish arches set in culs-de-sac and nooks. They have stout doors and barred windows rather than electronic hurglar alarms and you expect to find Ali Baba around any corner. The stalls in the covered market are full of newly hutchered meat, or dishes brimming with 20 different kinds of olive, or fresh

mosque is on a site previously occupied by Portuguese cathedral and Roman temple. London, York and Coventry must have been like

this four centuries ago. The other city, the ville nouvelle. stretches along the beach and is tat-tily French. It has broad streets with names such as Avenue Pasteur or Rue d'Angleterre, which are filled mint for the tea. Nearby alleys are with hanks and airline offices. It later Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha.

The medieval medina, left, with its tiny streets and houses. Colonial Tangier, right, an international enclave from 1923-1956. Photographs: Robert Harding

contains a massive French consulate-general like a Roman villa where they fly the tricolour as if to recall the 19th century when the French exercised their "protectorate" over Morocco.

Ghosts survive of a past when the

city was a hotbed of intrigue among European diplomats plotting to seize parts of Africa, spies watching the Straits and gays finding refuge from legal and social outlawry in Europe. Between 1923 and 1956, Tangier was an international enclave ruled by a committee of consuls from 30 countries, an international no-man's land where anything went. No wonder William Burroughs, Jack Kerouae and Alan Ginsberg warmed to the place, putting up at the Hotel al-Muniria

in Rue Magellan. Little mementoes of Britain linger on. Beside the ancient gramophone at the reception desk of the Continental Hotel, arms of Prince Alfred Ernest Albert, Queen Victoria's fourth child who became Duke of Edinburgh and



are framed. Once the most fashionable place in town, the Continental is friendly and run-down. where British dukes have been succeeded by jolly, rattooed British sun worshippers and Sun readers. A few yards from the hotel, in an ancient battery overlooking the sea, the inscription on a gigantic onward travel plans; deeper into 19th-century gun tells you it was made by Sir W C Armstrong and Company in Newcastle.

The best hotel is El Minzah.

Marquis of Bute in the Thirties. Its courtyard, with a cool fountain and waiters in fezzes and baggy trousers, is covered with rose petals.

It is the perfect place for breakfast. Here you can conspire with some of the cultured expatriates who Africa from this cosmopolitan pimple of a city, or refuetantly to make your way back between the Pillars of Hercules to Gibraltar: from erected in the centre of town by the Morocco to the mundanc.

### How to get to Tangier Royal Air Maroc flies twice-

weekly belween Heathrow and Tangier; GB Airways thes once a week on behalf of British Airways (0345 222111). Fares of £175 including tak through discount agents.

### Where to stay there

The El Minzah hotel (00 212 9 93 58851 is at 85 rue de la Liberte, and charges £110 per night for two, excluding breakfast. Plenty of less expensive places are available.

### How to get to

Essaouira Take the express train from Tangier to Marrakesh, a journey of 9-10 hours. Frequent buses cover the remaining 100 miles to Essaouira in three hours. The lotal cost is around £15.

### Who to ask

Moioccan Tourist Board, 205 Regent Street, London W1R 7DE (0171-437 0073).

### What to read

Morocco, a Travel Survival kit (Lonely Planet, £9.95).

### WORLD DEPARTURES

Timid travellers may be put off by some of the small print in the new Explore Worldwide brochure: "Before you agree to undertake a holiday in a wild or remote area, you should clearly understand that besides discomfort it may involve you in personal risk." If you are undeterred, then Explore (01252 319448) can offer trips to Alhania (15 days, £920). Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (12 days. £1,190) and Borneo (16 days, £1,295). Those of an untidy disposition are warned that "Some countries refuse

admission to travellers not meeting their accepted standards of dress/appearance."

The Imaginative Traveller (0181-742 8612) warns: "Think twice before booking with us". in its new Middle East brochure, which includes a trip visiting Gallipoli around the time of Anzac Day (eight days, £265, excluding flights to Islanbul).

Chould you want to **J**spend Christmas in South Africa, or join England's cricketers there, seats are still available. Bridge The World (0171-911 0900) has flights to Johannesburg each Monday via Dar es Salaam; you fly to the Tanzanian capital on Alliance, then transfer to South African Airways. A return tickets costs £663, including tax.

Travellers using the new series of charter flights to Las Vegas will need all the financial help they can get once they arrive. So the Quality Inn (377 East Flamingo Road, 00 1 702 733 7777) is offering a special "European visitor rate" of \$29 per room per night.

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# In the company of wolves

Slovakia's High Tatras mountains offer skiing resorts where Lycra is unheard of and breakfasts are big. By Michael Mewshaw

The High Tatras in Slovakia are about a seven-hour train trip from Prague. My journey, though, felt much looger. I reached the city of Poprad late at night and caught a cog-rail car that climbed through darkness so impenetrable it might have been a tuonel. Eight miles north, at Stary Smokovec. I got off at a station with cheerfully lighted lamps and loudspeakers playing a sprightly tune entitled Summer in Dirie, just what you want to bear when the temperature is 14 degrees below zero. The information booth was shuttered, the ticket windows closed and the waiting room deserted. Outside. there were no taxis and not a pedestrian in sight.

At the top of an icy hill directly above me, the Grand Hotel, a half-timbered monstrosity, hovered in the night. At that bour, and in my mood, it resembled the Addams Family residence. But once inside the lobby my outlook improved. A pre-Communist relic, the hotel wasn't nearly as forbidding as its initial appearance suggested. Children cavorted on brocade couches while grown-ups shot pool or sat in a reading alcove amply stocked with books. The guests all appeared to be real people, not a collection of manicured starvelings such as you normally see at ski resorts. In such places everybody is decked out in Lycra. In the High Tatras, the preferred costume of the après-ski crowd is a sweatshirt, baggy tracksuit bottoms and imi-tation Nikes. Best of all, a double room costs about £35 a night -- about wbat you'd pay for breakfast at a luxury hotel in Switzerland.

And speaking of breakfast, the Slovaks are hearty souls who like to stoke up for a day on the slopes. The buffet at the Grand Hotel was a cardiologist's nightmare, complete with bacon, four kinds of sausage, hard-boiled or scrambled eggs and a half-dozen different cheeses. Whatever this did to my arteries, it fortified me for a hike through the village of Stary Smokovec - an unspoilt place with harmonious, low-rise architecture, oot the kind of towering coodos that have transmogrified many Alpine hamlets. Some 300 square miles of the Tatras have been either preserved as a national park or protected, with restrictions on new construction.

Certain areas of the mountains are entirely off-limits and remain untouched babitats for some of Europe's last populations of bear, wolves and lynxes. Still, despite the emphasis oo environmental protection, the Tatras have world-class ski runs, ice-skating rinks, sled runs, cross-country trails, ski jumps and bockey



How to get there

There are no direct flights from the UK to Slovakia. To reach Prague, tickets are available on British Midland's new service from Heathrow for £161 return including tax through discount agents such as Major Travel (0171-485 7017). As an alternative to the long train journey, there are connecting flights on the Czech airline CSA from Prague to

### Where to stay

Stary Smokovec's Grand Hotel, Wolkrova 2 is opposite the railway station (00 42 969 2501); alternatives in Poprad are the Club Hotel (00 42 92 23725) and the Europa (00 42 92 32744).

rinks. Prices are risibly low. A lift ticket costs about £6 a day, and ski and boot rentals run from around £4 to £8.

I had thrown my back out and was unable to ski so I could indulged in my real passion: walking. The High Tatras have miles of trails that are kept clear of snow, and an electric train connects Stary Smokovec to nearby towns. I bought a ticket and settled into a seat in a rear car. As the little train trundled past snowy forests of fir and pine, and copses of birch and aspen whose bark peeled off like curling paper, I saw myself as a character in *Doctor Zhivago*, fleeing urban chaos, searching for a quite spot in which to recollect lost loves.

A short trip brought me to Strbské Pleso, the



Certain areas of the High Tatras remain habitats for wildlife, alsewhere there are world-class ski runs

of 4,445 feet, the village is strewn across snowy mountains and backed against a granite wall 2,000 feet higher. Yet the sound of Bob Mar-ley and the Wailers singing "I shot the sheriff" insinuated itself into every stone cranny of the oeighbourhood. In Slovakia, one bas the sense, even in isolated areas, of being imprisoned in a video of somebody else's devising.
Strbské Pleso offers excellent ski runs and

also serves as a staging area for climbing, cross-country skiing along the Cesta Slobody (Path of Freedom), or, in my case, for strolling around the second largest tarn oo the Slovak side of the Tatras. Although I shared the welldefined footpath with several other hikers, I had a splendid sense of discovery and solitary enjoyment. Beyond the reach of municipal

loudspeakers, the woods along the shore of the frozen lake were so quiet I could bear the erunch of my feet in the snow. Sunlight streamed through the trees, glittering on ice-encrusted branches and paving the path in colours like the aisle of a cathedral.

Lest the High Tatras sound like a paradise, however, I should add that they are unlikely to suit travellers who insist on haut cuisine. "Doo't eat anything," one half-hysterical German woman warned me as I entered a restaurant in Tatranska Lomnica. "It's all sickening."

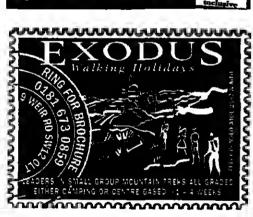
I took most of my meals at the Grand Hotel, and although the food tended to be bland, it was satisfactory. The lack of culinary sophistication was compensated for by the sweet patience of the waiters and by the melodramatic

performance of the mattre d'hôtel. Whenever anybody ordered a flambé dish, be dimmed the hights and prepared it with great ceremony, managing never to singe a single guest.

One night after dinner, he sauntered back to my table carrying two immense crystal goblets. Lightly clinking them together, he set the crystal ringing and held it close to my ear as be asked if I'd care for a liqueur. While waiting for an answer, he placed the goblets oo a serving table and spun them like tops. They wobbled dangerously, but he wasn't worried. He bad perfected this act over decades and was pleased to hear his guests gasp while he stood serenely smiling, certain the crystal wouldn't crash to the floor, and convinced his audience would express

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### What? You're making no effort to graduate to a state of supreme fitness?

### Snow's up By Chris Gill

No, it's mid-December and your skiing boliday is only weeks away maybe only days. By oow, you must be well into the routine of twice-weekly exercise classes. And doubtless you are making the most of all those incidental opportunities to improve your flexibility, power and stamina - you know, standing in bus queues tightening your

quads, that sort of thing. What? You're making no effort to graduate from your usual flabby state to one of supreme fitness? Well, join the club. I have just conducted a highly sci-entific survey of half a dozen ski journalists, gath-ered in St Anton to celebrate the effective start of the season, and can report that of the six only one claimed to be fully prepared - and be reported that with a suspicious smirk on his face.

Practically all said that they thought pre-ski exercises were desirable, and one came up with an inge-nious rationale: people like us, who ski regularly



throughout the season, can effectively get fit for skiing simply by skiing, taking it easy to begin with; skiers who go for only a week or mjuries. Skiing on a dry slope is not really an alternative to two, on the other hand, naturally want to go bell for leather right from the

start, so need to be prepared. Convinced? The proper thing to do, of course, is join a structured class: if you're lucky, your local sports centre will be able to accommodate you. If that's all too much trouble, consider getting an exercise tape or video. At least do what I've been doing for the last couple of weeks: taking every opportunity to work vague hope that this will belp save me from knee

exercises - you'd need to do an awful lot of skiing. But it has great value for absolute beginners, who can step on to the nursery slopes later in the winter confident in their ability to climb, stop, turn and get up after a fall. From tomorrow, skiers based west of Loudoo have an impressive new dry slope at their disposal: Wycombe Summit is one of the biggest dry slopes in Britain (350m long), a mile from Junction 4 on the M40. Call 01494 my thigh muscles, in the 474711 for details.

### **Snow conditions**

Dry-slope matting might have been very useful this weekend in the high French hips, where the Frenches Neige races are heing held on a course consisting largely of man-made snow, but a lack of snow on the adjacent slopes means that spectators will be confined to the finish area at valley level (unless there has been a last-minute dump, which would probably ruln the race

Here in St Anton, in contrast, the season is off to a flying start, with about a metre of snow and powdery pistes at altitude, and good cover (partly thanks to snowmaking, it must be admitted) right down into the town. The streets are snowcovered, the sun is out, the sky is mountain beckons.

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between now and June, Spain's paradores are really quite empty, so we've cut the prices to older visitors try to fill them up". The parador scheme be-

gan as a givenment triff. tive to convert historic buildings into upmarket hotels. There are now more than 70 such properties in towns and cities all over mainland Spain, and in the Canary Keytel Intelligence Islands and the North 402 2182). African territory of Ceuta. Until 30 June, over 60s get a discount of 35 per cent on stays of one or two nights. will be obliged to take a appeal to people who prefer permitting.

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Some properties have restrictions on weekend/ weekday availability, or over the Christmas and Easter periods, but many - such as the oew parador in the Andalus' in found of Rouga are offering reduced rates throughout. These start at around £20 per person per night, B&B. Paradors are represented in the UK by Keytel International (0171-

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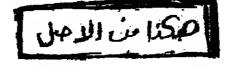
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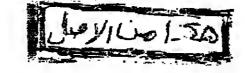
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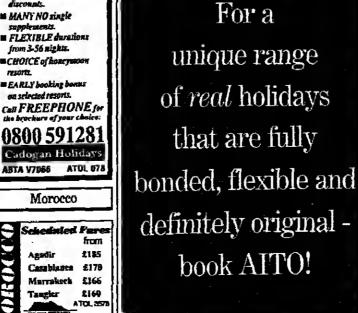
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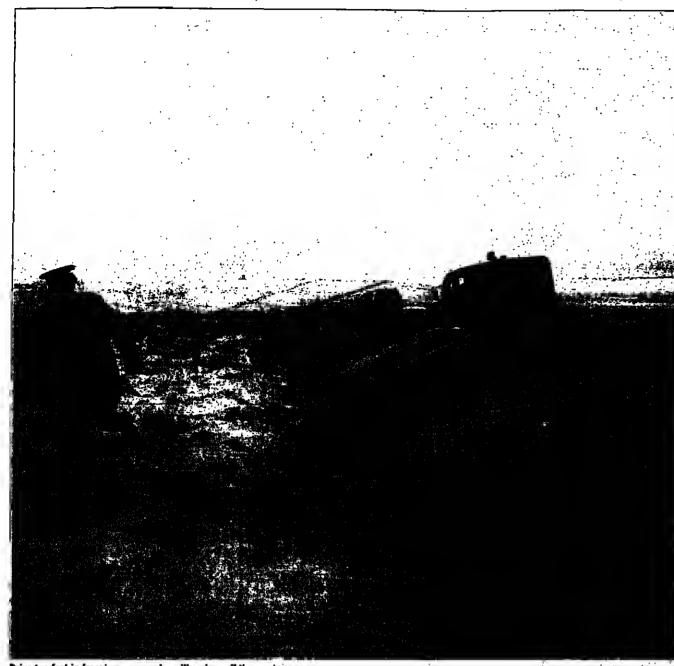
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# Snow's tricky, even without the mad drivers

The problem is not just the weather: in bad conditions we become a nation of insane motorists. This week proved no exception. By Penny Jackson



Drive too fast in freezing snow and you'll end up off the road,

s the first flake of snow begins to settle, there are drivers who just itch to get to practise their winter is, others who imagine themselves to be on the last stage of the RAC rally head straight for the motorway.

This week's freezing weather.

has been no exception. In Kent, where sections of major roads were closed altogether at times, there was the annual crop of mad motorists, according to a police spokesman. "Two nights ago," he aid, "we had to shut part of the M20. For at least a mile on a sixlane motorway, the road was essed drivers doing 50 or 60mph. It was so slippery that you could not even stand on the road without holding on to the they knew better.

"All we could do was cross our fingers. But the chances were they either ended up over a bank and in a ditch, or even worse, collided with other cars.

Now we have been told to expect freezing fog, which rolls wall of fog. This could be even not stress how important it is for drivers to be prepared," he added.

But even experienced drivers were unprepared for the horrors of the M25 a few days ago. George Edwards, who has clocked up thousands of miles in. wintry conditions, found himself iding into a never-ending queue. It took me five hours to go 20 miles. I have never seen anything like it. As soon as you touched the sideways. I was driving an antomatic, which didn't help, and all I could do was put the car into ocutral and follow the shape of the ice. Despite the horrendous over his windscreen like an allconditions, an occasional dope

If my wife had been driving on her own, she would have been very frightened."

And as Surrey police discovered, some people on their own did find it all too much. During the Thesday's chaos, they found a woman on the hard shoulder awaiting the AA. Her crisis? The windscreen wipers were not working. She was politely moved on.

Another driver showed touch ing faith in the invincibility of the rescue services. When police discovered her car oo the hard shoulder, they found a note for the RAC stuck to the windhave gone on foot to the Clacketts service area." Some six hours later, she was still waiting.

But the officer who met the driver of an automatic stalled in the middle lane during Tuesday night will be dining out on it for a while. cried in despair. "Try putting it in neutral before turning on the engine," might have been the polite answer she received

But not even the AA have found it plain sailing, "Our patrols in the South-east were rescuing people before getting stuck in the 6,000 calls by 11am; usually, they get about 13,000 a day nationally.

recurring hazard - the port-hole peer through the tiny gap. They wooder why they didn't spot the

car coming up on the right."
Certainly, some people do seem to leap into their cars without thinking about snow piled up oo top. On a school run, I spotted a man trying to clean a back-Another stopped suddenly, send-

# Rover 216Si



cute and handle crisply. They tout-perform most rivals for pep and economy. That they're youthful in spirit, nicely made and as British as Yorkshire pud is all to their credit.

Yet there's a problem: Rover has pitched the 200 into the compact end of the huge lowermedium sector - and priced it according - where the opposition, led by the bestefling Ford Escort, is discernibly higger and roomier. One glance at the 200, three-door or five, and you'd swear it was a generous supermini. Clamber into the back, and you'd be convinced of it. There's more legroom in a Fiat Punto. Size aside, Rover has created

a winner that can only enhance the reputation of BMW's British wing. Not that BMW had anything to do with it; the 200 was designed before the German takeover. Former Japanese collaborators Honda had no input either. Unlike the Hondabased 400 (which also competes uneasily above its weight), the 200 is pure in-house Rover, petrol and diesel engines included. It's the company's first mainstream solo since the Metro/Montego, and according to chief executive John Towers. marks a momentous stage in it's development. Were there any lingering doubts after the MGF that Rover lacked creative skills,

the 200 dispels them.
All the 200s have powerassisted steering so they're easy to park and manoevre. All come with suspension that rides the bumps smoothly without hlunting agility: keen drivers will like the car's nippy cornering, responsive steering and sharp brakes. Driven with spirit, the 216i feels almost as lively as the 127mph 200vi, powered by the MGF's classy 1.8-litre high-tech

CHRISTMAS

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There are, though, some design flaws. Up front, tall ones) could do with a lower seating position: I felt awkwardly perched on the seat. More rearward adjustment would not go amiss, either. And rear

legroom is very cramped. Welcome novelties include the provision of three rear seats technically tricky with 60/40 split rear seats - and grope-free radio cootrols on the steering wheel. There's a nice, crisp feel to the switches, and the smart leatherlook facia instils an air of quality. The word "youthful" pops up frequently in Rover's blurb, as if to distance the 200 from its more mature siblings. So why the traditional burn wainut embellishment, which creates nasty reflections in the windscreen?

Of the six engines on offer in the 200 series - a super-frugal 1.4, two 1.6s, the 1.8 humdinger and a couple of oil hurners - the one that will raise eyebrows most is a new turbo-diesel which is impressively quick (thrusting acceleration to 115mph) and amazingly economical (72.6mph at 56mph and a realistic 55mph overail)

The mid-range 216Si I tested is as lively as it is frugal: Ford's similarly priced Escort 1.6 is well beaten on performance and economy. But then the lightweight Rover cannot match the higger Escort's accommodation. Take your pick: space or pace.

Roger Bell

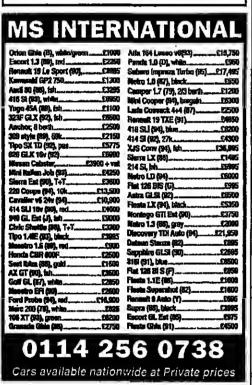
**Specifications** Rover 216Si five-door, £12,695. Engine: 1589cc, four cylinders, 16 valves, 111bhp at 6000rpm. Transmission: five speed manual gearbox, front-wheel drive. Top speed 118mph, 0-60mph in 9.3 seconds, average consumption 42.2mpg.

Rivals

Ford Escort 1.6iSi five door, £12,475 Britain's best-selling car is bigger and roomier than the new Rover -- but not so lively or economical. Latest facelifted car much better than its predecessor in looks, ride and handling. • Peugeot 306 1.8XT, £13,230 Overall size and wheelbase similar to Rover 200's, but cabin much roomier. Terrific ride and handling. Goes well, sounds and feels refined. The benchmark on all-round ability at this

VW Polo 1.6GL, £11,344 Able, well packaged supermini. Although a class down from the 216, longer in wheelbase and roomier in the back. Fine ride and handling, indifferent performance. Lacks Rover's spirit.

### motoring



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### How to ensure you're fully prepared for winter roads

By Phil Llewellin

heaters, anti-lock hraking systems and other features to combat freezing. If very that are oow taken for cold weather is forecast, RAC has 83 per cent more call-outs in winter than in summer speaks for itself. So take a few precantions.

Make sure your car is properly prepared. This sounds obvious, hut a survey carried out hy the AA. last winter revealed that 34 per cent of the vehicles inspected did not have anti-freeze in their cooling

Other faults identified by the survey included wiper hlades that needed replacing and tyres with insufficient treads.

"The hattery is the higgest single cause of starting problems, because it has to work extra hard in winter," says the RAC. This problem escalates when hatteries are subjected to the additional strain imposed on them by such equipment as mobile

Solutions to car problems in winter need not be expensive. Reluctantengines are frequently encouraged by a squirt of damp-defeating WD-40. Other problem solvers include a battery charger and jump leads that transfer power from a healthy battery to a sick one. Think in terms of £10-£15 for these items.

When the temperature falls below zero, we have all shared the road with part of the country. drivers whose visibility amounts to a few square mches of ice-tree windscreen. Andrew Howard, the AA's road safety chief, underlines the need to allow plenty of time to achieve maximum visibility. Essential helpmates ters. These are Merthing you should do. It include an ice-scraper and cedes-Benz Unimogs with could be quite literally the

This is a testing time of screenwasher bottle's of ground clearance. year for cars and dri- water should he laced vers, despite efficient with a cleaner whose formula includes something granted. The fact that the stock up oo Halford's double-concentrate screenwash. One litre - enough to make up to 40 litres of

> Fog is probably the most dreaded of all winter hazards. According to the AA, there are about 20 days a year when cooditions become so had that even the most experienced drivers are disorientated. Use dipped headlights, keep the windscreen clean and switch the fog lights on when visibility falls to 100 metres. Sticking close to the lights in front creates a false sense of security and can be the prelude to an

fluid - costs £3.49.

accident. Few road-users appreciate the need for such precautions more than Dennis Priestley, a 42-year-old police constable who patrols dales and fells where blizzards and temperatures worthy of the Arctic are often experienced at this time of year.

"Believe it or not, warnings about roads being closed due to bad weather are quite often ignored," he says. Eight of his 21 years in uniform have been spent policing about 100 square miles of the northern Pennines, which the guidebooks correctly describe as England's last wilderness. This is a beautiful but potentially lethal

Based in Alston, England's highest market town, PC Priestley has road, you will be found. If become adept at hauling you start walking, there vehicles to safety with a are times when you can Range Rover. He and his become totally disoriensergeant co-operate with the men who work the grit-ting off on foot is the last a supply of de-icer. The four-wheel drive and lots last thing you do."

Winter conditions can be dangerous" is the unequivocal warning on the

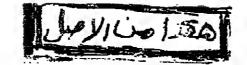
sign where the A686 from Penrith to Alston leaves the village of Melmerby. From there the road zig-zags to Hartside Top, 1,903 feet up the Pennines' western flank. Five miles east of Alston, the A689 hecomes England's highest classified road when it reaches 2,056 feet at Killhope Cross.

Modern cars are so cosy that it's very easy to be unaware of how cold it has become outside," says PC Priestley. "Speed is the main cause of problems in winter. People go too quickly, then hrake and slide off the road."

He stresses the need to remember that if the weather is bad at the foot of a hill, conditions are almost certain to deteriorate as the road climbs higher. Cold and wet in Alston can become a hlizzard a few miles and minutes later, when you reach Hartside, Killhope or the highest point on the B6277

"Stop and go back when you start encountering small drifts," he says. There's always the temptation to press on. But if you do that, then realise you can't keep going, by the time you decide to turn there's a risk that the snow behind you will have built up to such an extent that the road's blocked."

"If you get stuck, the golden rule is to stay with your vehicle," PC Priestley asserts. "If you're on the



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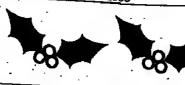
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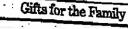
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that as a matter of

When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to





Many people, it is clear, are still too innocent or too ignorant to be able to blandishments of a well-trained and highly motivated insurance

full marks to the Consumers Association, which this week came out with some interesting and headlinegrahhing research showing how ofteo financial advisers give poor investment advice to those who come looking to them for help in their financial affairs. A survey in the monthly magazine Which? suggests that up to a third of all advisers give had and unsuitable

it identified is recommending financial product that is quite inappropriate in investment terms, but which has the great merit (from the adviser's point of view) of earning a commission.

One of their researchers who was sent out to pose as a redundant man wondering what to do with his £15,000 pay-off was on several occasions urged to put his money into investment honds or Peps when a risk-free huilding society or bank account would have better suited his

A second researcher. claiming to be a young man looking to save some money to pay for his wedding two to three years away, was offered a variety of unsuitable alternatives, including a personal pension, Tessa savings accounts and even on one occasion, two emerging market investment trusts.

All of them would have earned commission for the adviser that the researcher went to see.

Accountants and solicitors The most common offence were just as culpable of putting their own commercial interests ahead of those of their client, the survey found, as independent financial advisers.

In fact, concludes Which?, despite their often poor reputation, the independent financial advisers came out best of all the types of advisers they looked at Naturally, one hopes that

the advisers who come hadly

out of this exercise are suit-

ably chastised by the Bad publicity can be a powerful deterrent. It is actually



### **JONATHAN DAVIS**

quite easy to take issue with the conclusions of the survey. The findings are based on a very limited sample, and the Consumers Association is nothing if not the ultimate dogooding body, with all the strengths and weaknesses which that implies.

The notion that it can dic-tate what financial advice anyone should he given is in the finest tradition of nannying well-intentioned but hossy. The implict assumption in the two cases it presented is that most people are, or should be, risk-averse at all

pects, was the second and have the potential to do guinea-pig it chose to test a 26-year-old trainee accountant, though one hopes he

would have known better. Such aversion to risk is certainly oot the kind of attitude which is going to make the British economy great again. In the movies, at least, any young man with real fire m his belly would not be sav-ing for his wedding, but living life to the full and taking risks while he still could. He would, almost certainly, not

first place. One's mid-tweoties, if only ooe knew it at the time, are actually a very good time to be investing in the stock market. You only need to find one or two successful companies, such as a Glaxo, Sainsburys or Rentokil, to set yourself up for a prosperous later life, while the risks of doing something that permanently dam-

be a trainee accountant in the

ages your wealth at that stage are still small. But there is no point in being over-censorious about to arm themselves with the reports which the Govern-

an awful lot of good.

The consumer badly lacks a champion to stand up for him against the vested interests in the financial services industry. The banks, huilding societies and insurance companies, like all former cartels, oeed a powerful consumer lobby to keep them on their

Nor can anyone doubt that the problem of commissiondriven sales of financial products is a real one. The sorry saga of the mis-sold personal pensions is graphic evidence Many people, it is clear, are

rant to be able to resist the blandishments of a welltrained and highly motivated insurance salesman. Unfortunately, those who say that the answer lies in more regulation are only par-

still too incocent or too igno-

The only way to avoid inadequate financial advice for certain is for individuals necessary information to pro-

Not for nothing, one sus- exercises are well-intentioned text themselves against committing financial folly.

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, the solution really goes all the way hack to the education system. In the last years of the twentieth century, it is still depressing that thousands leave their schools or universities without any clear sense of how to manage their own financial affairs.

Even supposedly well-educated people can be curiously myopic when it comes to money matters. While many rely on friends for advice, the trouble is that there is oo guarantee that this produces any better results than listeoing to some unknown adviser. Relying on your hank manager for wholly disinterested financial advice is also not

without risk. All the banks these days are in the business of trying to sell extra financial services to their customers, which creates its own potential conflicts of

interest. In any case, as Professor Jim Gower, who wrote the ment used to frame the cur-

rent Financial Services Act points out, the other problem with financial advice in this country is not that it is often

It is that, as a nation, we are so reluctant to seek it. When we do, we prefer to try and get it on the cheap rather than pay a reasonable fee for it. One reason why independent financial advisers and others end up being so dependent on commission is that they canoot always make a decent liv-

ing without it. As is so many things, the only sure way to get good financial advice is to pay for it. Over a lifetime, the cost will more than be recouped by the savings and returns that it generates.

But best of all is to put the time and effort into finding the answers yourself. The Consumers Association itself publishes several useful books on mortgages, pensions and the like.

Riveting reads they are not, hut a couple of hours ploughing through them is certainly a worthwhile investment -



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## Unquoted companies can be a nightmare for investors. But in the hands of a cautious Scot, one trust is doing nicely

By Alison Eadie

unedin Enterprise, a £5lm venture and development capital investment trust, has had a good run in the past 18 months. Its shares and oet asset value have grown strongly, winning it awards this year from Micropal and

It was not always so. Brian Finlayson, who manages the trust, says its performance after coming to the stock market in 1987 was poor. Investing in start-up and high-technology husinesses had oot worked.

In the early 1990s the focus of investment was switched to later-stage financing of management huyouts, huy-ins and development capital for growing private companies. That switch is now paying off.

Investments made two and three years ago re taking advantage of ket and a renewed corporate appetite for acquisitions, and are floating or being sold to bigger companies. The trust has benefited through rising asset values and a growing cash pile to put into oew investments.

Buying and selling unquoted companies is a very different game to stock-picking in the quoted market. Information about companies and access to their shares is restricted. Accountants are often in the driving seat and invite venture capital fund managers to make competitive tenders, often on the hasis of just one meeting, Mr Finlayson says:

Despite the somewhat haphazard system compared with the efficiencies of the quoted market - Mr Finlayson admits he never knows where the next deal will come from deals do arrive and some prove to be out-andout winners.

Dunedin Enterprise's largest holding is LDV, formerly Leyland DAF Vans, which was bought out from the receiver in February 1993. It made pre-tax profits of £19.4m last year and paid the trust a net dividend of £295,000.

Although income is welcome, capital bonds for the travel industry.

growth is the objective. That will come in full. when LDV floats on the stock market, possibly next year. The impact on asset values could be considerable. At present the trust values its 6.5 per cent holding io a much more conservative fashion than 3i, another hig

The conceotrated nature of the trust's portfolio - the top 10 holdings accounted for 74 per cent of total value at the end of April - underlines the need for care when making investments. Mr Finlaysoo is a cantious Scot. "I have a philosophy that says we don't lose

Given that investing in small, private companies is much higher-risk than huying big company shares, such an aim is not necessarily easy to achieve. Mr Finlayson, who likes to see every

team that they are investing his mooey. He has £100,000 in Dunedin Enterprise, his second-largest investment after his house. He also monitors investments closely and sits on the boards of three of the trust's higgest

Most investments perform satisfactorily and a few perform spectacularly, he says. A few take a long time to come right. Of the husinesses Mr Finlayson can understand. In 43 holdings, 10 are "still alive" hut have no value attributed to them. They are just ticking over or making some money, hut have no realisation prospects in sight. "Patience can he rewarded," Mr Finlayson says, hut adds that it is more important to concentrate on the fast-growing companies of value.

We invest in management and make money out of basic husinesses," he says. The trust has a bias towards manufacturing and towards Scotland. Its higger holdings include Motherwell Bridge, the Scottish engineering company, Coal Products, a smokeless fuel huy-out from British Coal, Macdonald Hotels, Scottish Highland Hotels, and Travel & General Holdings, which underwrites.

Its method is to huy on a low price-earnings ratio and sell some three to five years later on a high price-earnings ratio, explains Mr Finlayson. In the past four years the trust has not paid more than 10 times the previous year's earnings for a company.

It values its higger holdings at around 10 times historic profits and its smaller holdings at four to nine times historic profits. The FT All-share index is presently on a historic p/e of 16, giving plenty of scope for a huge uplift in value wheo investments come to market.

The trust then sells out, although oot lways immediately. When Domnick Hunter, the filter manufacturer, floated in March last year, Duoedin Enterprise topped up its holding as another investor wanted to unload. It is gradually selling into strength, having seen 325p this week.

A spate of realisations means the trust is sitting on £13m cash, the most it has ever had. Mr Finlayson is unperturbed. "There is no point in rushing into deals and no point in oing into quoted stocks. We'll stick to our knitting," he insists.

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The "knitting" means only investing in the main these are cash-flow, high-margin businesses. There have been no high-tech investments for the past five years and startups are only countenanced if the management is well proven.

The average size of each investment is between £750,000 and £2.5m and the trust aims for an annualised return of 25 per cent to 35 per cent. Although this sounds desperately amhitious, with inflation running at 3.2 per cent, Mr Finlayson says the trust has been hitting its target in the last two to three

In the long run unquoted equity should outperform quoted to justify the extra risk. Dunedin Enterprise has comfortably outperformed the FT-SE A investment trust index over five years, yet as Mr Finlayson points out the shares of many venture capital investment trusts including Dunedin Enterprise languish well below their net asset values. The lagged effect of asset values, which are

updated twice a year and hased on historic profits of investee companies, means there should be more good news to come even if the pace of asset growth is slowing.

Mr Finlayson certainly believes there is

plenty of value in unquoted equity still to be





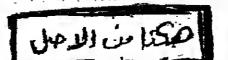
**Notice to Borrowers New Rates of Interest** 

The rate of interest charged on existing variable rate mortgages will be decreased by 0.30% pa gross with effect from 1 January 1996.

Borrowers in the Budget Repayment Scheme do not require to take any action at this time.

Notices will be issued to borrowers outwith the

The Society's new basic rate is 7.69% pa gross. ringine Building Society, Caledonia He



# Mortgage arrears: a user's guide

Paying off a mortgage debt? Clifford German and James Hipwell give some practical advice



Halifax has been quick to reject claims that mortage lenders overcharge borrowers by calculating amounts due without taking monthly repayments into account

find themselves in a position to resume payments may now have the right to insist their arrears are consolidated and rescheduled over the whole of the remaining length of the mortgage, following a ruling in the Court of Appeal this week.

The Court over-ruled an carlier county court judgement and decided that it Guardian Building Society, but it will be suspended if now part of Cheltenham & there is a possibility of a Gloucester, within four negotiated settlement, years, rather than over the The case of Mrs Norgan years, rather than over the

the judgement, although in some years ago. But attidifferent circumstances they might have been tempted to apply for earlier repossession orders while the borrowers were not in a position to claim they could resume servicing their loan.

The ruling is not likely to affect the majority of cases where borrowers fall behind on their payments because of long-term illness, unemployment or family circumincome to service the loan as well as meet other com-

arrears begin to build up the debt and rearranging because the borrowers payments over the life of into arrears on their because the borrowers realise they are trapped in a property with negative equity, and lose heart in the fight to keep it.

In the vast majority of such cases lenders will now try and get borrowers round a table to discuss the situation. If the case is hopeless lenders will seek a repossession order which the borrowers will not oppose. If there is a chance that the situation can be redeemed was unreasonable to expect most lenders will nowadays Mrs Christina Norgan to try to seek an arrangement. clear arrears of £20,000 on. Lenders will probably still a £225,000 mortgage from seek a repossession order

remaining 13-year life of the and her farmhouse appears to have passed the point of Lenders may well accept a negotiated settlement tudes to arrears already appear to have softened. When cases have gone to court most judges have decided that arrears would have to be cleared within a reasonable period, usually over three to five years.

However Cheltenham & Gloucester, which took over Guardian in 1990, says individual circumstances alter cases, but if borrowers can stances, such as the depar- resume payments on the ture of a breadwinner which original mortgage and make leaves the remaining occu- a small reduction in the pants with not enough arrears over a period of perhaps six months, they do now consider consolidating the remaining arrears into

the mortgage, provided that the borrowers' circumstances allow them to service the new loan witbout bardship and provided also that the new loan does not exceed the value of the

property.

A spokesman for Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender, said it is already the society's policy to negotiate the payment of arrears over the whole life of the loan. But there is no question of debt forgiveness or soft terms and borrowers who allow arrears to build up will find it increasingly difficult to shift the arrears and accumulated interest. Their circumstances will usually have had to improve markedly to service the

increased burden.

A borrower with arrears of £6,000 on a £50,000 mortgage at the society's current mortgage rate would have to pay an extra £45.41 a month on top of the normal payment of £352.68 a month on a repayment mortgage over 25 years. On an endowment policy it would require an extra £38.71 a month on top of the normal interest pay-

ment of £293.48 a month over the next 25 years. There is no precedent for lengthening the life of the mortgage, although this was quite commonplace with repayment mortgages in the Seventies when many

borrowers were unable to chief executive at Mortcope with mortgage rates which surged at times to 15

uilding societies were Salso under attack last week because of their long-standing practice of re-calculating the outstanding balance on a repayment mortgage only once a year and charging interest on that amount for 12 months without taking intervening monthly repayments into account.

Endowment mortgages are not affected because the loan outstanding remains unchanged until it is redeemed by the matur- mortgages have been critiing endowment policy. But researchers MortgagecheK claimed that over 25 years it would create an overpayment of £2,306 on a £60,000 mortgage. Even over the average seven year life of a mortgage it would add £353 to the correct repayment. As many as six million borrowers with repayment mortgages could be affected, it claims.

"On examining the returns from actual borrowers we were amazed to find that interest is calculated on an annual basis and divided into 12 monthly repayments. This takes no account of the reduction in capital on a month-tomonth basis, even though some of the lenders claim they apply interest on a daily basis," said Pat Wall,

gagecheK last week.

Lenders such as Direct Line, Lloyds Bank and Midland Bank all charge fairly, by applying their interest charges on a reducing balance. There is no reason why the others should not be doing the same.

"Borrowers should prepare claims for historic overcharging and submit them to their lenders, who, we believe, should not hide behind the unfair terms and conditions of their contracis, but take a moral stance and refund claims."

The revelations come at a time when endowment cised for poor performance which could result in them not building up enough capital to repay the mortgage in full when the policy matures. Many advisers now recommend repayment mortgages because they appear to contain no hidden catches.

But Halifax has been quick to accuse MortgagecheK, whose research was commissioned by a Sunday newspaper, of needlessly alarming borrowers. "When asked to reconcile Mortgagechek's figures we found the Halifax's figures to be entirely correct. The mistakes were Mort-gagechek's." a spokesman

"The way we calculate based on a system called payments.

annual rests, used by virtually every lender in the industry and by far the fairest method of calculating repayments. Our methods are straightforward and perfectly clear in the mortgage conditions sent to every borrower. The impact is also measured by the annual percentage rate

(APR) quoted on loans." If borrowers want to reduce interest charges, Halifax claims, they are free to make one-off lump sum repayments, which are deducted at the end of the month made and the monthly interest due is then recalculated.

Mosi socicties require a minimum extra payment of £500 before they will recalculate the interest immediately, but Halifax will accept £250 and N&P as little as £100. Smaller sums will not be credited until the lender's year end, which can vary. It always pays to check when your lender does its calculations. If you miss the annual review by a few days your money could be left lying fallow for up to another year.

The best advice is to pay small sums into an interestbearing account until they grow to the point where they can be paid in (always close to the end of the month) and have an immediate impact on the balance outstanding. The same monthly repayments is applies to voluntary over-

# Car screenings

Would you buy a used car from this kiosk? Clifford German on an alternative to salesmen

ould you buy a used car from a television screen equipped with a touchpad housed in a nine-foot high blue kiosk? That is the question to which sponsors Camden Motors, Churchill Insurance, Olivetti and motor manufacturers Rover and Nissan are seeking an answer when they launch trials next week at eight sites in Nottingham and Slough

At a touch on the screen the Auto-Select kiosk will start to provide information on new and used car prices throughout the UK, an estimated part-exchange value for existing vehicles, the availability and cost of finance.

It will also provide a printed insurance estimate and arrange a test drive. The voice of actor James Bolam provides step by step instructions on how to access the sections by touching selected boxes on the screen display, and the whole procedure takes three or four minutes.

Auto-Select is the brainchild of John Bacon, an executive director of Camden Motors, which is owned by Barclays Bank. He believes that most people are confused by the sheer choice of makes and models available in the UK, intimidated by car salesmen and reluctant to expose their ignorance.

"Add to this the options on extras, differing partexchange values and a vast is not satisfactory it is the array of finance packages, work of a moment to thumb and there is little doubt why back through the questioncustomers are confused, he

As a result many people before they enter the show- and pocket.



You can even arrange a test drive at a touch on the screen

room and do not have access to all the facts and options available, or the opportunity to "browse" before buying.

The insurance quote takes customers through half a dozen sequences starting off with a question as to the approximate age of the car required, which brings up information on 24 makes and 250 models covering an estimated 95 per cent of all vehicles which were available at

After selecting a particular model the customer is asked for information on his or her age, address and postcode. and the value of the car.

A quick calculation generates a printed quote, which is not final, but gives a rough guide to the likely cost of insurance cover. If the answer naire and select a different option until a realistic quote is obtained on a car which have to make up their minds suits the customer's tastes



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warmet:

# How to reduce your heating bills

And create a cleaner atmosphere into the bargain. By Mary Wilson

tbe importance of efficient heating and insulation to save on heating bills. Since July this year all new homes have to be energy rated. The National Energy Foundation launched the National Homes Energy Rating system (NHER) four years ago and this can give an owner or new surgive an owner or new pur-cbaser some idea of what their fuel bills sbould be.

For an older home, you will also be able to find from their charts how much you could save in fuel bills if you improved your rating by one or two points. Anyone can bave their bome rated and NHER assessors charge from £50 to £130, depending on the size of the bouse and how far they have to travel.

This further emphasis on energy efficiency in our ocw housing stock is intended not only to reduce heating hills, but also an attempt to cut down the amount of carbon dioxide released in the

In 1992 the UK signed a

year) by the year 2000.

Although this bas now been achieved because coal fired gas stations have been replaced by gas fired stations, the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from homes accounts for around a third of the total, so there is room for even more The energy used by the

average home creates 7.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year and by taking some very simple steps homeowners can reduce this output by one-fifth to a half. The national effect of an

average grading improve-ment of just one out of 10 would cut total carbon dioxide emissions by 24 millioo tonnes a year. The New Homes Mar-

keting Board has just issued figures based oo six properties, three new and three old, in separate locations around the UK, and these show very clearly that the age of a house has an important influence on carbon dioxide emissions.

A modern home pro-United Nations convention duces about half the on climate change commit- amount of carbon dioxide ting developed countries to to a similarly sized old

he cold snap is a reduce emissions to 1990 house and is very much timely reminder of levels (600 million tonnes a cheaper to run. cheaper to run.

In Huddersfield, a new four-bedroomed detached house had an NHER rating of 9.2 out of 10. The owners' first quarterly gas bill was 25 per cent less than the same period a year earlier when they lived in a smaller 1930s three bedroom semi, which had an energy rating of 5.5. The new bouse produces 5.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year compared with 8.7 tonnes produced by

A four-bedroom bouse near Nottingham was rated at 8.5, costing £650 a year to beat. A similar 1930s house costs £1,450 a year to beat and was ratled 3.4. The carbon dioxide emissions were 6.9 tonnes for the new house compared with 17.7 tonnes for the older home.

the older house.

The third comparisoo was a four-bedroom semidetached house in Surrey, rated 9. This costs £630 in heating bills. A similarly sized Edwardian house cost £1,500 to heat and was rated at 4. It produced 17.9 tonnes of carboo dioxide compared with 5.8 tonnes in the new bouse.

Dr Eva Chapman, codirector of National Energy

Services, says that next year from kitchens and baththey are hoping to target the public to encourage them to have their homes rated so they can see bow improvements can be made.

asthmatics.

glazing and installing a

more efficient heating sys-

tem you could improve the

rating to 6. The improve-

ments would cost about

£10,000 but would hring

your bills down by around

Other sources of infor-

nation on saving energy can

be obtained from the oet-

work of local Energy Advice

Centres, which were set up

in 1993 by the Environment

Secretary, John Gummer.

There are currently 32 cen-

tres around the country,

managed by the National

The Foundation says that

last year as a result of over

57,000 clients asking for

advice, energy saving mea-

sures were installed saving

£2m off fuel hills and pre-

venting over 20,000 tooles.

Energy Foundation.

£1 000 a year.

"New houses have to be huilt to a better standard now," sbe says, "but owners of older properties can save on their fuel hills too, as well as reducing carbon dioxide emissions".

Lagging your hot water tank saves £10-£15 a year, using energy-saving light bulbs could save you up to £50 during the hulb's life and by turning down your thermostat by 1 per cent can cut up to 10 per cent off your fuel bills. Fitting thermostatic radi-

ator valves saves between £10 to £20 a year and draught-proofing windows and doors saves £10-£20. For more effective and more expensive methods of saving energy you could have your loft insulated, saving up to £70 per year, put in plastic secondary glazing, which cuts your bills by up to £25, and if you fitted an eoergy-efficient gas condensing boiler you exuld save up to £130.

Heat exhange systems, of carbon dioxide from which extract bot stale air entering the atmosphere.

Their information pack rooms and convert it into suggests that an average household should be able to cool clean air are also very effective and also good for cut at least £100 a year off their fuel hills. your health, especially for

The pack includes a list of the most effective mea-If you live in a house with a rating between 3 and 5. sures and the expected time taken for them to pay for which is the average energy rating for an old house in themselves as a result of reduced energy bills. the UK, by improving the insulation, putting in double

Its tips include turning your heating down by one degree Celsius, keeping the lid on saucepans when cooking, using your heating for one hour less a day. insulating bot water pipes and, as an alternative to double glazing, taping poly-tbene or cling-film across the window frames.

These may not be very radical steps, but every little helps.

> National Home Energy Rating Scheme, National Energy Services, Rockingham Drive, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes, MK14 6EG, 01908 672787. Contact your local **Energy Advice Centre** by telephoning 0800 512012. New Homes Marketing Board, 01.71 580

# Take an Irish punt

With low inflation, growth prospects and independence from UK markets it could be the European Tiger economy. By Clifford German

The Irish stock exchange finally declares independence from the London stock exchange next week, establishing the Irish market as a separate investment opportunity. Independence could work wonders for the rating of Irish stocks, according to Gervais Williams, who manages the Irish smaller companies investment trust launched six months ago by NatWest

Shares in the trust were placed with institutions at 98p and only a handful have seeped down to ordinary investors, which is just as well because the shares have drifted down to 93p and the fund now stands at a 10 per cent discount to net asset value. But a savings plan channelling anything from £30 a month into the trust is planned next month, which could arouse some interest from investors looking for a punt on the prospect of Ire-land emerging as an European Tiger economy. Irish sbare prices bave

moved closely in line with London stocks for the past decade, although the Irish economy has consistently out-performed the UK since 1988, with only a mild slowdown in the recession, and company profits have outgrown UK stocks.

As a result they now look cheap relative to the UK. The average price of the top 10 Irish stocks has fallen to just 10 times annual earnings compared with 14 times for the top 100 shares in the UK. The 67 small Irisb companies are averaging 10.4 times this year's earnings compared with 13.1 times for the FT Small Companies index.

Irish stocks have been neglected because overseas funds have not channelled funds into specifically Irish stocks, but following the abolition of controls on ontward investment in 1989 Irish institutions oeglected their own stocks as they built up their holdings in overseas assets. That outflow has oow stabilised and a higger proportion of Irish investment is being invested at home.

Away from the Loodoo stock market the Irish stock separate allocation of external investment funds. Its market

capitalisation is tiny but even a modest allocation of capital from overscas institutions would work wonders for the ratings of Irish stocks. Ireland's growth prospects

look good, with the economy

Rest bor

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S

expected to grow by 7 per cent this year and 5.5 per ceot in 1996, while inflation remains below 3 per cent. For the next five years Ireland is assured of favoured category one EII status for investment incentives and the 10 per cent corporate tax rate for Irish exporters will last well into the next century. nvestment capital is attracted by a cheap, well-educated labour force. The only major weakness, with the UK as Ireland's largest single market, is the relative strength of the cur-rency against sterling. The food manufacturing sector is already mature, but the small company sector is set to benefit from a surge in consumer spending by Ireland's young and increasingly well-off pop-ulation. NatWest likes the look of smaller companies in manufacturing, leisure, insur-

ance and construction. The trust's five largest holdings are the department store group Arnotts, Jurys Hotels, the leading insurance company Hibernian, ferry operators Irisb Continental, and a finance house. Woodchester Investments, where major stakeholder Credit Lyonnais could sell out and trigger a bid. It also bolds 15 per cent stakes in Petroceltic which draws royalties from gas deposits under the Celtic Sea, and Irish Financial Group, a

mortgage provider. Perhaps 10 to 15 per cent of the NatWest fund is invested in Northern Irish stocks. Northern Ireland has a bigger manufacturing base and should also benefit from a surge in inward investment and Peace Grants, although the eight quoted Northern Irish shares have oot yet been re-rated since the ceasefire, and might not suffer too severely from a breakdown, according to Gervaise Williams.

The £21m raised by the fund when it was launched is oow fully invested in 32 different stocks, but the manborrowing to expand the fund by 25 per cent.

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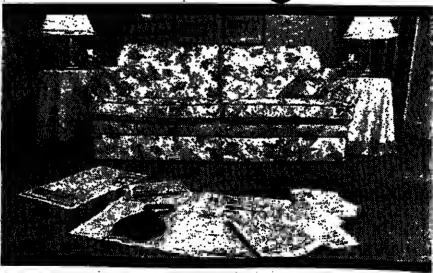
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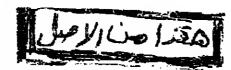
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MONEYFACTS 01692 500677

FEAR OF FINANCE Clifford German



In the face of it it has been another bad week for the personal finance industry, with the Consumers' given by some independent financial advisers, many accountants and solicitors and most tied agents, the Court of Appeal opening a precedent for borrowers in arrears to insist on rescheduling their debts over the whole life of their mortgage. and the Banking Ombuds-man launching a bitter attack on mortgage lenders for failing to give refunds on mortgage indemnity guarantee and is something the majorpolicies when they are no

longer required. that less than half the adult population has a clue, or even the twin ravages of inflation a care, about personal finance and market competition. generally. There is also a deep-seated reluctance on the part of the punters to buy insurance products which need of debate, the Governthey might not need, like pri- ment is committed to vate health insurance and strengthening the regulatory long-term health care, or authorities, and the codes of where they feel the cover is practice established over the likely to be expensive, and possibly unsuitable for their ing the skills and standards of needs. Mortgage protection practitioners in the industry. policies, which do not pay out immediately, cease payment a case of one step forward after as little as twelve two steps backwards. Many months, and disqualify many cheerful purchasers of people who are selfemployed or working on personal pensions have been short-term contracts are a case in point.

reduce the quality of service to the most rudimentary level.

prefer to leave it to a Labour administration to introduce. Individuals inevitably tend

to postpone investments until Association criticising the they are convinced that prices quality of financial advice are rising, by which time prices are looking expensive and set to fall. This has bedevilled the unit trust industry for years and has only been partly offset by Peps with long-term tax attractions.

The attractions of so-called guaranteed products, which protect capital against loss in return for a limited partieipation in investment gains, is a clear indication of the longing for certainty and security. ity of investment-based products cannot give. No amount Opinion polls still suggest of tax-sheltering can protect investment products against

But at least there is no shortage of publicity, the media is picking on issues in last decade are gradually rais-

In some areas it has been endowment mortgages and horrified by revelations of the extent to which their Perhaps it would be better investments have been ravif the Government stopped aged by front-end commisequivocating over its long- sions and charges, and have term commitment to the withdrawn from the market. National Health Service and But the long-term move to made it clear just where it greater choice, clarity and intends to withdraw, or to access to information is highly desirable.

Government however The case for the Government to make some forms of insurance provisions, including that older investors are not ing minimum percentages of tempted to delay decisions. earnings to be contributed to And financial institutions pension plans, mandatory, in could play a part by offering the same way that minimum flexible products which could motor insurance is manda- be bought now in the knowltory, is looking stronger by edge that they could be the minute, although it may applied to a variety of future be something they would needs us they arise.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RETIRE WITH A MILLION -START TAKING YOUR

OWN ADVICE.

Douglas Mollitt, TV and Radio Financial Commentator

Nadoble to comprehensive motor insurance printyAnnual fee waked after first year if DM + changed to card during previous year,
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ND IF YOUR MIND clamps shut

at the mere mention of the word

Amillion, consider this: If you add

up your lifetime earnings - past and

future you will see that you will almost

certainly earn a fortune in your lifetime. it could add up to a militon pounds or . The trouble is, like most people you'll

Of course, what you could be doing

is taking this fortune and turning some

of it into another fortune - the one you

But you'll probably say you're been too busy to attend to this yourself ... or

perhaps managing money loday just

Then there's the myth that somewhere

out there - if only you could find him -

is a friendly, honest person who is going

to give you sound and impartial advice on what best to do with your hard-

earn u · and spend tt.

want to end up with.

seems too complicated ...

THE REALITY IS somewhat

different. The person you are

looking for mar not exist?

Unices you are already a

villionaire - or close to it -

there is virtually no such

thing as lop quality Independent financial advice

The shocking fact is that

not much good at what they do.

than the Stockmarket as a whole.

IN FACT the widely-accepted Random Walk theory says that you will beat the

pros at pleking shares by simply

blindfolding yourself and sticking a pin

Look at unit trosis. The vast majority

of them underperform the Stockmarket

in general over time. They would have

actually lost you money compared to

· So the question is: Why pay fat

ommissions and management fees"

But ... let's face it ... most people find

loday's world of personal finances too complicated · and too baffling, in short,

they're stuck. They are surcessful in

many wher respects. But when it comes

to investing and money management

they have no real plan. All because

there's been no sample बदार to हुन्। started.

Successful Personal Investing

pa-step how to build your care financial

to have a so-called professional manage

to the share table in your newspaper.

incredible, but true.

buying shares at random!

The ansper is - con I.

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That is, uptil now ...

Take investing in the Stockmarket

most professional advisers are, on the whole, just simply

earned money:

"At last it is possible for a normal human being to learn the ins-and-outs of moneymanagement and investing without all sorts of pompous and confusing technical twaddle ... The Successful Personal Investing programme from IRS is like a great breath of fresh air."

lent to base rate. 7 December 1995

nce ... and how to take the million or so you'll probably earn in Common research clearly shows that your lifetime and get started on building most professional investors and advisers the militon you want to end up with ... such as slockbrokers and unit trust and all without depending on some adviser ... and without paying through magagers - actually do more poorly the nose for advice that Isn't truly

> THE SPI COURSE starts with the basics and then goes on to the "tricks of the trade" - the simple, tried and true techniques that enable you to protect and then pyramid profits to build wealth

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only a couple of hours of your time a month. There ts no burning of the midnight

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Let's face it - most people

spend more time planning a

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7 December 1995

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Peter Lilley, Social Security Minister, is the driving force of the campaig to persuade people to take responsibility for their own financial futures

# Pensions: start here

tion has stalled. At a time wheo the idea of private pension provision commands more support among Britain's politicians than ever before, sales of personal pensions to individuals are plummeting.

The arguments for private pensions are well understood. The healthier, wealthier populations of the developed world are living longer in retirement, imposing an increasing pensions hurdeo on the taxpaying workforce. If Western governments are to avoid spiralling taxation, they must attempt a two-pronged assault on the problem – cutting state social security henefits and encouraging people to save more towards their own retirement.

This logic, once resisted by Labour, is increasingly accepted by Tooy Blair and his team.

Pension experts fear the message has still to get across to the man in the street. Changes already made to the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps) will sig-nificantly reduce its value for those retiring in the oext century. The increase in the female retiremeot age from 60 to 65 also threatens to impose an additional burden on many families.

Pension companies believe the Government has failed to make it clear how these and other changes will cut back the support available from the welfare state. Tony Reardon, pensions development director at the insurance company Allied Dunhar, says: "The Government has got to be hooest with the public and say, 'We are reducing state pensions'. I would like to see the Government doing a lot more advertising on pensions."

With a large and growing need for private pension provision, Britain's pensions industry should be enjoying a bonanza. But the opposite is true. This year's sales of regular-premium pensions collicies (where you pensions policies (where you save moothly) look set to reach little more than half the number

This paradox is explained by the two huge scandals that hit the pensions industry in recent years. Personal pensions, first intro-duced in 1989, appeared to have been a great success story for the life insurance industry, with more than five million policies sold.

But two years ago, it became clear that hundreds of thousands of investors had been badly advised either to leave good company pensioo schemes, or to complicated documents that

transfer previously accumulated retirement savings into a persocal peosion. The cost of putting right the resulting financial damage has been estimated at anything up to £4bn. Public confidence in the life insurance industry, never strong, was dealt another heavy blow. Financial watchdogs pushed through a wide-ranging series of reforms to

preveot a repetition.

Many financial advisers seem to have concluded that selling personal pensions is more trouble than it is worth. On top of the usual checks they have to make when selling financial product to a client, personal pensions involve another layer of complexity.

Alan Goodman, assistant general manager with the insurance giant Standard Life, says: "It's extremely difficult to huy a personal pension these days - and equally difficult for someone to sell the product and go through the whole lengthy process."

Insurers have adopted so-called

transfer analysis systems to assess any potential customer considering switching his accumulated company pension savings into a emerge from transfer analyses. "Producing these analyses does not always help the chent," he says. "They protect the adviser."

The Robert Maxwell affair, the other pensions scandal of the Nineties, damaged public confidence in the other side of the private pensions industry—employer-run schemes. Its most lasting effect has been a new Pensions Act, which has introduced new solvency requirements for company schemes and other safeguards.

Some fear that the Pensions Act will reinforce the move away from "final salary" schemes - the traditional type of company pension that pays beneficiaries an income based on their earnings in the last years before retirement. Anxious to control costs, employers increasingly favour schemes in which they can fix the level of contributions. Employees belonging to these "money purchase" schemes have much less idea of the level of pension they can

expect to receive when they retire. One factor that should encourage more people to save more for retirement is the increased recognition of the problem the elderly personal plan. Mr Reardon is face in paying for long-term care. sceptical about how much benefit investors derive from the highly cellor, Kenneth Clarke, promised

Thousands of people could essentially those up to the still be putting their pension National Insurance ceiling -

unwittingly and needlessly at risk by opting out of the state earnings related pension

scheme (Serps ). This is a pen-

sion paid to employees on top

of the basic state pension.

A bad risk for the low-paid

and reduced to 1 per cent from the 1993/94 tax year.

These incentives proved so

popular that nearly 6 million

employees signed up for a con-

tracted-out personal pension.

ing that many of those who cootracted out were oo

incomes too low to allow them

to benefit. The average earn-

ings of men who have con-

tracted out are under £10,000,

the average for women about

£6,300, and the amount of

Serps rebate paid into their personal pension is too small

The chief financial regula-

tor, the Securities and Invest-

ments Board, is investigating

the size of the problem. We've commissioned a firm

of actuaries to talk to about 20

life insurance companies,"

the pension provider.

However, concern is grow-

essentially those up to the number of policies sold, the

for them to benefit after they where you should contract

age saving for long-term care including a tax exemption for benefits paid by specialist insur-ance policies. He is also considering allowing occupational pensioo schemes to pay variable pensions - which could pay a small income immediately upon retirement, and a larger amount

in later years, when more people are likely to need long-term care.
This could offer some pensioners useful additional flexibility.
Unfortunately, few people retire with enough savings to allow them to defer the greater part of their pension for a few years. Most go for the highest pensions they can, because they need to.

Similar problems arise with flexible annuities, which allow people to defer taking their pension in the hope of being able to make their decision in a more favourable interest rate environment. In the meantime, they can draw upon the income earned by their pensioo fund. But this will be substantially less than their pension entitlement. And pensioners who opt for a flexible annuity must also accept further uncertainty over the future . performance of their pot of pen-

Paul Durman

charges made and the age

profile of the policyholders." SIB expects to publish its find-

ings by the end of the year.

It is also feared that others

are neglecting to review their position. This is oecessary

because, say the experts, being

contracted-out stops making

sense around the ages of 35

for women and 40 for men.

For those at this age who

have previously cootracted

The decision of whether to

contract out, or whether you

have oow reached ao age

cated by proposed changes to

the rebates due to take effect

in 1997. The Government is

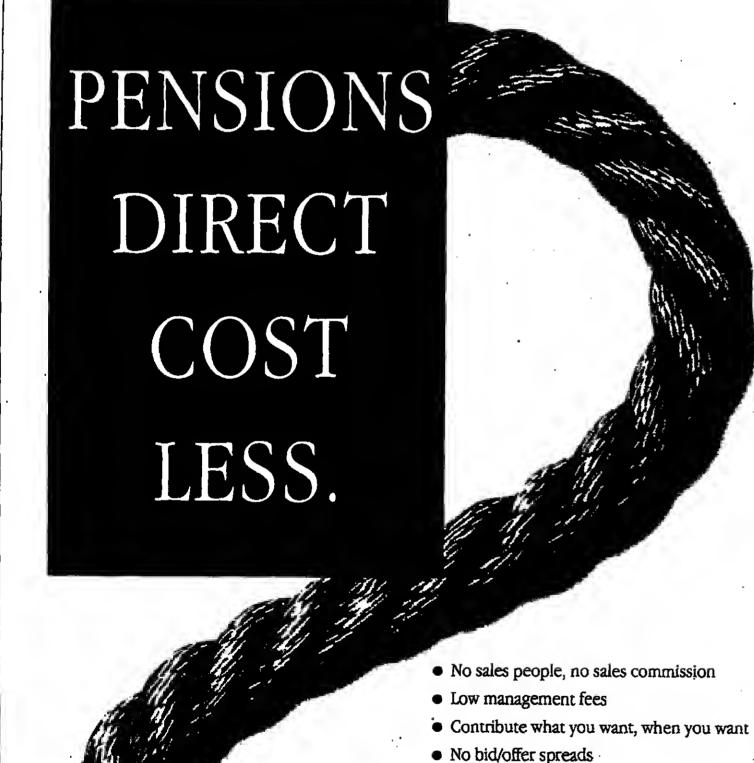
working oo a scheme to give age-related benefits. In

theory, this should make con-

tracting out much more

**Anthony Bailey** 

well be the best move.



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Personal pensions

### More than 100 companies offer a plan. Which one is right for me?

offer a company pension scheme, investing in your own personal pension is the most tax-efficient way to save for your retirement.

You need to choose a peosion provider with good, consistent performance and reasonable policy charges to get the most out of your money. You should also look for a plan which is flexible enough to fit in with changes in your lifestyle – one that allows you to alter the size of your premiums, to stop and start payments and to retire at any age without penalty.
But how do you go about

selecting the right one? With more than 100 insurance and investment companies offering their own ranges of peosion products, the choice may seem eodless. If you decide to aim for a

pension income worth half your sulary at the age of, say, 55, a competent pensions adviser should be able to calculate how much you should save to attain that level of income. But Nick Bamford of the independent financial adviser Informed Choice, warns: "Then the client has to decide how much they can actually afford. The later you leave saving towards your pension, the more expensive it will be to provide a reasonable

f you are self-employed or There is a good argument which gives returns directly your employer does not for everyone to make single linked to the stock market. premium pension contributions. Not only are the charges generally lower, bot single premiums are not subject to the hefty penalties for stop-ping further payments. This makes them particularly suit-able for women who think they may want to take a career hreak to have children, or people who want time off

work to travel or study. It may be advisable to ask for a "waiver of premium" benefit to pay contributions during a long period of illness.

A competent adviser should be able to guide you through past performance tables and the different charging structures. Martin Beckett of the independent adviser Pointon York, says: "If the client has 10 years or less to go to retirement, they are probably likely to be more cautious and might look at a with-profits fund

"You want a company with the ability to maintain bonuses. Equitable Life has an undernably good with profits record. Commercial Union is a very strong office and Standard Life is another good all-round company we would

Those who have more than 10 years to go before retirement should consider what is

Mr Beckett says: "The cri-teria here would be good consistent performance and a fair charging structure. One of my favourites for the more agressive and advecturous type of investor is Skandia Life."

The charging structure of pension policies varies enormously from company to company and depending oo the type of policy you choose. Despite the introduction of disclosure rules at the beginning of the year, many charges remain hidden.

However, wheo you buy a plan you are given projections of the effect of its charges. Total charges can seem high as much as a third of the total pension savings you might accumulate over a 25 year period and typically a fifth over this timeframe.

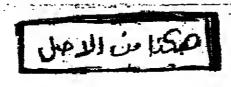
Look for an independent financial adviser who offers the choice of either being paid by a fee by you or of receiving commission from the company whose products he sells.

The commission on a one-off payment of, for example, £2,000 would typically be 5 per cent or £100. But a fee for the same advice could cost you £300 to £400.

Anthony Bailey

The Government introduced contracting out through personal pensions in 1988 as a way to cut the cost of state pensioo benefits. By encouraging employees to take more responsibility for their own pension, it hoped to avoid the build-up of a crippling pensions bill in a few decades' time. Those who contract out of Serps receive a rebate of some of their National Insurance have paid the charges made by back in, is further complicontribution. You can't get you hands on this money directly, but you can have the rebate paid into a personal pension. To help get personal pen-sions off the ground, the Govemment also paid an additional incentive on top of this rebate. This was initially worth says a SIB spokeswomeo.

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# For a fuller retirement

f all the employees in company pension schemes, only one in 10 retires on the full amount of pension allowed by the Inland Revenue. Likewise very few people who are currently investing in a personal pension plan are putting in the maximum amount permissable under Revenue rules.

Most people leave saving late. By the time they start thinking about putting schemes, including an AVC some money away, they actually need to save hundreds of pounds a month to sustain the kind of lifestyle they have in mind. And company schemes do not a further 10 per cent into make full use of contribution limits.

However, provided they have cash to spare, there are several tax-efficient ways to top up their

pension. All companies with pension schemes must, by law, offer an additional voluntary contribution scheme (AVC) for members of the main pension scheme. An AVC is run as a separate. fund to the main pension scheme, and its management may be farmed out to a third party - a life office

or building society. It enjoys nearly all the same tax breaks as the main pension scheme - members' contributions are taken salary as retirement from their pay before tax, income. For example, he given relief from income might belong to a scheme tax at their highest rate, and that pays him 1/80th of his contributions grow tax-free final salary for every year.

within the fund. sidise the management the employer can estimate charges, making the AVCa the effect of inflation on invested for the benefit of accordingly, the company the employee. Contribu-tions are paid net of hasic-increases that result from for every £100 the investor employee can benefit from wishes to contribute to his a substantially higher AVC, he pays £75 and the retirement income without insurance company claims the remaining £25 from the Inland Revenue. Higherrate taxpayers must claim able to join a company penany further relief through their tax returns.

. It is elso possible to choose your own top-up policy, which is known as a free-standing AVC. FSAVCs are sold by insurance companies on a commercial basis, and are not subsidised by the employer, so charges can seem high in comparison to an AVC.

Members of company schemes can contribute up to 15 per cent of their total remuneration - basic salary for their retirement too plus any bonuses and commission - into pension or FSAVC. So if a scheme member is already contributing 5 per cent of his earnings to the main pension scheme, he could put an AVC.

> AVCs are simple moneypurchase schemes. The money an employee invests plus any growth is used to buy an income annuity at the time of retirement. However, the best way to top up an occupational pension is not with an AVC but through huying "added years". This option is usually only open to members of "final-salary" public sector pension schemes, but some private company schemes have also adopted this approach. Each year that an

employee belongs to a final-salary scheme entitles him to a portion of his final

The advantage of buying Many employers sub- extra years is that although having to pay for it.

Self-employed investors and employees who are not



Bill Lane and bis wife Sally are both topping up their company pension schemes so they have the option to retire at the age of 50. Bill, e 35-year-old computer salesman, earns a basic salary and commission. His company pension scheme contributions are based on the basic wage plus half his no-target commission earnings. As he regularly earns in excess of his target, Bill was worried that his pension would not reflect his current income.

Bill's company offered just one AVC scheme which did not suit his needs, so he has chosen a free-standing AVC from Skandia Life. The scheme's investment projections indicate that it has

the lowest charges, and it offers the choice of more than 200 funds, managed by the UK's leading investment houses. He is currently paying contributions of £250 a munth.

Despite the extra contributions, Bill is still not saving enough to be able to retire on the Income he would like at the age of 50. He says: "I'm still well short of the target, but I'm also investing the maximum amount possible in Peps, and was a heavy investor in business expansion schemes."

Sally, at the age of 29, is unusually young to be topping up her pension. She wants to invest as much as she can now in case she needs to take a career break to have children. Her employer, Marks & Spencer, runs a final-salary scheme that allows members to buy added years. Sally bas bought 10.6 extra years, at the cost of £120 a month.

personal pension. Very few people invest as much as they can into personal schemes - from 17.5 per cent of net relevant earnings for anyone aged 35 or their income tax hill. less to 40 per cent for those aged 61 to 74.

.. If an investor has used complicated, and anyone up the current year's interested in pursuing these alluwance, he should be, options should consult an very cost-effective way to the value of an employee's able to mop up any unused invest - most, if not all, of salary over the period to allowance and tax relief adviser. the contributions will be retirement and charge from the previous six years - a process known as "carry forward". This means that and Trustee Services says if a 35-year-old investor rate tax. This means that promotion. This means the only used 10 per cent of his imise the flexibility of their allowance six years ago, he retirement arrangements can contribute the remain- should also invest in pering 7.5 per cent now on top sonal equity plans. He of this year's allowance.

Investors can also "carry hack" contributions to the sion scheme should make allows the contribution to the most of investing into a be treated tax-wise as withdrawn from a Pep at

though it had been paid any time. This makes into the pension scheme in them ideal for the one-off the preceding year - a expenses that can occur at process that can help those who are trying to minimise any time, or to supplement a pensioner's income until

he reaches state pension

Claire Arthur

age, he says.

Both carry furward and carry hack are extremely Richard Jacobs of

Richard Jacobs Pension investors who want to maxargues that Peps offer equivalent tax advantages hut unlike pensions - which previous tax year. This only pay out at retirement - capital and income can be Investment strategy

### Use your freedom of choice

ne of the little-known secrets about personal pensions is how much choice policyholders have to pick, their own investment

Of the billions of pounds that flow into personal pension funds every year. 90 per cent goes straight into mainstream "managed"
"with-profits" funds.

Few personal pension holders in the UK take the time to examine other choices, even though a pension is the single biggest investment most people make in a lifetime. Yet nearly all pension providers now allow planholders to review their investment on a regular basis.

As you get closer to retire-ment you should reduce the level of risk to which your money is exposed. When you are five years away from being a pensioner, it is simply too dangerous to leave your pension savings in a volatile fund even if it is rocketing upwards in value. It could just as easily plummet in value just before you retire, leaving you with a meagre income for the

rest of your life. With-profits and unitised with-profits plans are the lowto-medium risk investment choice that most people pick, Money is invested in a mix of investments - gilts, stocks and shares and property. Profits made by these investments are accrued to the plan each year in the form of a reversionary bonus - a value which cannot he taken away from the plan, such that the value of your pension pot only riscs. When the plan matures. a final bonus is added. Its size varies significantly from one company to the next. A unitised with-profits plan runs on similar lines, with money allocated to units in the with-profits fund.

Unit-linked managed funds also invest in a three-way split of property. shares and bonds, and are considered medium-risk. However, unlike with-profits plans, unit-linked policies do

not benefit from the addition. They can invest in anything of guaranteed bonuses each that produces an income. year. The value of the units will rise and fall in line with the value of the underlying

Self-invested personal pensions or Sipps are really only suitable for the financially sophisticated, offering the greatest freedom of choice and the highest potential risk.

Copies of the Money Marketing 1995 Unit-Linked and With-Profits Surveys are available on 0171 439 4222 and are priced at £3 each.

Patrick Collinson



THE FINANCIAL TIMES April 8 1995

A Pensinn Fund from one of the UK's aldest established investment trust companies has been rated by The Financial Times as one of the top performing, Inwest cost pensions available\*. Cost is important - with some plans, charges can reduce your savings significantly\*\*. This pension is an example of a number upon which

sure you get the pension best suited to your circumstances, you need INDEPENDENT financial ndvice. With over 300 investor Inteltigence independent financial advisers across the UK, there's nne near YOU, Return the FREEPOST conponnr

Investor Intelligence advisers can offer advice. To make

phone us FREE, anytime, nn: INTELLIGENCE 30 MAKING MONEY MAKE SENSE

### New providers

### Fund managers have ideas for your savings. Just add a pensions wrapper

rionally had to turn to a the last year or so, a handful of City investment managers ment trust pension, introhas also made a hid for your duced last year. retirement savings.

The new providers' main

claim is that they can manage your money much more cheaply than the life insurers. They have simply added a "pensions wrapper" to add the usual pension tax advantages to their existing invest-These are collective funds that diversify risk by spreading investors' money across a broad range of shares.

The potential savings look impressive. Flemings, for example, says an investor saying £200 a month for 10 years will end up more than £3,500 better off than if he chose a personal pension from Legal & General, assuming the same investment returns. The trust pension is also at least £1,400 cheaper than pensions from Clerical Medical, Scottish Equitable, Norwich Union and Standard Life - all leading companies.

Daniel Godfrey, marketing director of Fleming Investment Trust Management, said the new pension accounts have attracted hun-

higgest and hest-known Investors seem to have

found unit trust pensions much less attractive - prohably because of the 5 per cent initial charge made on investments into unit trusts. Although this charge seems high compared with investment trust pensions, it leaves ment trusts or unit trusts. the management company with very little to offer in the way of commission to financial advisers. Insurers have rightly been criticised for their upfront charges, but some of that money is paid to the financial adviser or salesman

for explaining the issues. Framlington introduced its unit trust pension a year ago. Anne McMeehan, marketing director of Framlington, says: I happen to think that the same Flemings investment Framlington pension plan is an extraordinarily good one. But cost advantage over life insur-just because it's good does ers, who have the benefit of not mean it's persuading millions of people to get one."

> area, and few investors are handle the changes in legislacapable or confident enough to decide what they need without the help of edvice.

of Towry Law, a large firm of life insurance benefits that dreds of customers since their financial advisers, says the are important features of

sions "is not nearly enough to life insurance company. But in investment trust, has also had reward anybody giving advice a good response to its invest- on these products". Interested investors unsure of what they want may therefore have to pay for advice - thereby reducing or eliminating the claimed cost advantage.

Flemings and Foreign & Colonial allow you to invest your pension in one or more of their investment trusts. The exact level of charges you pay will depend on your selection. The more esoteric trusts tend to have much higher levels of management expenses than the general or UK-only trusts. The flattering cost com-

parisons are based on an assumed investment trust manegement fee - a modest 0.5 per cent in Flemines' case. The trusts you select may be more expensive. Devid Graham, head of

marketing et Scottish Widows. doubts that investment managers can claim any lasting large volumes of business. "We also have the expertise, the sys-Pensions are a complicated tems and the experience to

tion," he adds. Mr Levett-Scrivener is also concerned that investment Charles Levett-Scrivener trust pensions do not offer the

A nyone looking for a per-sonal pension has tradi-Colonial, manager of Britain's investment and unit trust pen-thinks the lack of "waiver of premium" henefit is particularly important. This ensures that premiums will continue to be paid into your pension should you become too ill to

Investors must always be wary of claims based on past performance, because there is no guarantee that good results will continue into the future. Be particularly careful about comparing investment and unit trust returns with an insurer's managed pension fund. Managed funds typically invest some money in fixed-interest securities and commercial property, not just

Mr Godfrey concedes that investment trust discounts may worry some investors. Shares in investment trusts typically trade for less than the value of their underlying investments and this gap - the discount - can either narrow or widen.

But the new products are not for everybody, and their drawbacks need to be properly considered before you make an investment.

Their dependence on share performance makes them potentially much more volatile than traditional insured pension plans.

Paul Durman



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out-performed the average Building Society

so consistently over the past five years.

+1.5% extra interest account. And has done



Building Society Figures are as at 18.5.45 Source: Micropal

**Building Society** 

This chart compares a typical +1.5% Building Society investme account with Rayal Liver's BONUS BURLDER, a 10 year with-pi ndowment maturing 18.5.95 (Guaranteed Minimum ±3,2271 Bo re based on a £30 monthly premium invested by a male aged 29

while your while you can take your money fi-lding Society account at any time, BONUS





### CINEMA

### THEATRE



### EXHIBITIONS

La Haine (above) Powerhouse thriller set amongst the labyrinths of a Parisian house in gestate recovering from a rick. Writer and director Mathleu Kassovitz is unsparting in his indictment of a brutal police regime. Panther Intelligent Black Parities draina. Don't expect too much political meat to sink; your teeth into: this is closer to a biography, but a demn riveting one at that.

Sister My Sister Chilly mod piece about two directors mades (loely Richardson, Jodin May) in-1930s France who decide to do away with wealthy employer Julie Watters.

Ryan Gilbey

Three fall Women (above) Final week in Africa (above). This is pivotal show is pivotal show in Amica (above). This is pivotal show is pivotal show in Amica (above). This pivotal show is pivotal show in a Kathy included to the more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to permit the specific fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the substitution of the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the substitution of the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the substitution of the implicit fave appeared to be more impressive than the substitution of the impressive than the substitution

ples and blue is set to the music of by Darcey Bussell, Irek passer and lifesurer Kumalowa: Count from Grand Grand House London WC2 businesses Birmingham Royal Bales asserting Birmingham Royal Bales asserting Birmingham Royal Bales asserting Birmingham Royal Bales asserting Country Williams With a revival of Mariana Bales asserting Ballet's family Ballet's (ebove) Tilyla Tharp's first Period Ballet's Co. Will have though a pop-Notting am

### arts and entertainment listings

### FILM

**WEST END** ● -also outside London
● THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT (12) The president falls for an environmental hobbyst. Empire Leicester Square 100, 3.25, 6.00, 8.35, 1.20 [Salg Falham Road MGM 1.10, 3.50, 6.40, 9.20; Trocadero MGM 1.50, 3.15, 6.10, 9.10, pointwister (Salt) Coloro Hills Street Em 1.00 Canicholgia (Sat); Odean Hilph Street Ken 1.40, 4.20, 7.00, 9.40, 12.20am (Sat); Sem on Baker Street 2.55, 5.90, 8.20; UCI Whiteless 10.15am, 12.40, 3.10, 6.15, 9.00

5.40, 8.15

@POLLD13 (PG) The story of the 1970 Apollo
3 mission. Empire Leionster Square 12 noon,
2.45, 5.30, 8.15, 11.15 (Sat)

APOCRIPSE HOW 118) Classic depiction of Victnam. Ricy. 1.50 (Sat), 5.00, 8.05, 11.15 (Sat)

BARCELOMA (12), Whit Stillman's take of two
Americans in Squain in the 1970s. Ricy Cinema
Sun 3.10 + Before Sumise 5.00

@ BASKERRUL BURRES (18) Depiction of a
young man's growing addiction to drugs. Trocodern MG14 4.40, 7.10, 9.20, 12 midnight (Sat)

@ BURRE PROBER (PG) Third instalment of the

codero MGM 4-0.0, 7-10, 9-30, Limidnight (Sau)

BEIDIN FIREFER (PC) Third instalment of the
Batman adventures. Women West End 12ncon

Bit THE BLEM WIDMITTER (15) A modely collection of actors rehearse their production of
Hamlet. Barbican Cinema 3.00 (Sun), 6-15,
8-40: Chelsen MGM 1-10, 3-50, 6-30, 9-30; Tarenham Count Road MGM 1-85, 4-15, 6-55, 9-30;
Ocion Haymarker 1-30, 4-00, 4-30, 8-30; Colorn
High Street Kensington 4-50, 7-15, 9-46; Swize
Contact Colorn Sat 2-40, 5-05, 7-2, 9-45. Checon Haymania 1.50, 4.00, 6.30, 8.50; Checon High State Krassington 4.50, 7.15, 9.40; Swize Courage Coleon Sat 2.40, 5.05, 7.25, 9.45, 12midnight; San 1.40, 4.05, 6.25, 8.45; Richmond Fünhouse 3.00, 5.30, 8.00; Rizy Cotema 2.25 (Sat), 4.45 (Sat), 7.00, 9.15, 11.30 (Sat) 800Hillist (15) Med Gibson directs and stats. Odeon Mezzanine, Leicenter Square 2.50, 7.40; Plaza 12.30, 4.00, 7.30

• THE BROWNERS MEARITER (15) Three brothers search for true love and lampiness. Gate Natura FEE (250, 500, 705, 9,10, 11,15 (Sat); Lumiere 215, 425, 640, 855; Ricy Chema 230, 535 (Sat), 830, 1130 (Sat); Screen on the Green 415, 645, 855 Green 4.15, 6.45, 8.55

■ PREMI BY THE SIM (15) A wife's ex-boyfriend returns. MCM Swins Centre 2.10, 6.00, 9.00.

■ CHARTMAN 2 (18) Sequel to the horstor pic. Tiocadero MGM 4.55, 7.10, 9.30, [2midnight (Sal); Wirner West End 9.40, [2midnight (Sal); Wirner West End 9.40, [2midnight to the num she loves by marrying this gay lover. Partin Sweet MGM 2.15, 5.40, 9.00, Odean High Street Engineers 10.25, 7.11 Seco. (5.71 1.50).

Street Kensington 9.25, 12.15am (Sat) ● CKSPER (PG) A little girl befriends a ghost.

Twowlers MGM 12.15, 2.30

children to steal their dream Centre 2.10, 4.30, 6.55, 9.25 ms. MGM Swint ● CLESLESS (12) Teen onovie satire. Warner West End 1240, 250, 5,00, 7.20

 Con 12-10, 230, 500, 723
 Contistin Prof. (15) Submarine Unitier. Buker St MGM 1.10, 340, 605, 825; Chelsen MGM 625, 9.15; Trocaden MGM 12.10, 3.10, 6.10, 9.10, 12midnight (Sai); Cilcon High St Ken 1.25, 4.10, 6.53, 9.40, 12.2500 (Sai); Odenn McCarmine 2.45, 5.55, 8.35; UCI Whiteleyr 7.00, 9.35 OR JESTIL AND MS HYDE (12) Tim Daly an Sean Young star. Haymarket MGM Sat 2.15, 4.40, 7.05, 9.30; Sun 1.30, 3.55, 6.20, 8.45; UCI Whiteless 10.10, 1.10, 3.15, 5.30, 7.45, 10.00 THE EXORCIST (18) Classic borror. Trocadero

FRENCHI (15) Beopie of an 18th century custrate surger. Clayburn Picture Hist 1.45, 6.30; Eur Cr Rd MGM 4.25, 9.35; The Mineras 310, 6.30, 8.45 ■ FRENS 1835 [12] Nieg Ryan stars. Floradero MCM 12-40, 3-40, 6-20, 9,10; Odern High Strees Kon 15-5, 7-10; Sovers Cottage Odern Sat 1.30; Kon 15-50; U. Covers Cottage Odern Sat 1.30; Kon 15-50; U. Covers Cottage Odern Sat 1.30; Kon 15-50; U. Covers Cottage Odern Sat 1.30; Kon 12-50; U. Covers Cottage Odern Sat 1.30; Kon 12-50; U. Covers 1.30; 
### MDE (18) An attentional warmen is suspected of murder. Plaza 2.00, 4.10, 6.15, 8.35

© LARD & FREEDON (15) Kan Loach's Intest. Curron Phoenix 1.15 (Sut), 3.40, 6.05, 8.30; Odeon Mexamine 2.45, 6.05, 8.35; Renoir 1.45, 105, 6.75, U. 201 Odeon Mezambie 2.45, p.15, 8.35; Remoir 1.45 4.05, 6.25, 8.50 LIVING IN OBLIMON (15) A director experience

a catastrophic day's filming. Punton Street MGM 2.10, 4.40, 7.15, 9.35 ◆ THE MADNESS OF TORIG GEORGE (PG) Alan Bennett's comedy. MGM Series Centre 2.00, 4.40, 6.45, 9.30

o.A.5, 9.30

■ MMD UNE(15) A marris depressive runs sawy with her strait-laced boyfriend. Empire Leicerter Square 1.45, 4.10, 6.25, 8.45, 11.45 (Sat)

■ MERGER M THE FIRST (15) An woung lawyer must defend a prisumer who committed nunder in front of 200 winnesses. Chapham Ficure House 2.00 (Sat), 4.30, 7.00, 9.30; Fullman Road M GM 12.40, 3.20, 6.10, 9.10; Hommarker MGM Sat 2.30, 5.45, 8.55; Sum 2.00, 5.05, 8.10; Switz Cottage Oulcon Sat 3.30, 6.35, 9.30, 11.50; Sum 2.30, 5.35, 8.20; UCT Whiteless 12.40, 3.20, 6.10, 9.10; Humer West End 1.00, 3.40, 6.20, 9.00, 11.50 int DBH DEC 12.1867 MBC (U) 1946 classic western. Remair 2.25, 4.35, 6.45, 9.00

■ THE MET (12) Sandras Entitled; stars. Odeon

MY MRAING LIBERTHINE (U) 1940 CIRSIC WESTerrn. Remain 2-25, 4-35, 6-45, 9,00

■ THE NET (12) Sandra Bullock stars. Odeon
Mechanine, Leicener Square 3,00, 6,00, 8,30

THE NISHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS (PG) The
Burton's andonsted lable. Barbican Cinema Sol
2-30; Chapham Ficune House Sat 1.45

■ POCHMONTES (U) New disney adventure.
Cheleen MCM 1.20, 3,20; Odeon High Street
Resistation 1.30; Swine Cottage Odeon Sat
1.245; UCI Philadegy in 3,00m, 1,00, 3,05, 5,00;
Warner West End 12.10, 2,00

L POSTWO (15) A poet helps a postman to woo
a beautiful main! Fullman Road MCM 1.40,
4.10, 6.45; Shafterlawy Avenue MCM 2.10, 5.25,
8.25; Serees on Baber Sereet 4,05, 6.30, 8,50

■ THE SMOR CAIME (U) A non-believer most
stand in for Santa. Chelsen MGM 12.45, 2.55,
5.05, 7.20; Coleon High Street Reminigion 2.00,
4.30, 7,00; Swine Contage Odeon Sat 1.10, 4.15,
6.55, 9.35; Sum 1.20, 3,50, 6.20, 8.30; Odeon
West End, Leicester Square 1.20, 3,45, 6.20, 8.45;
UCI Whitchys 11.10 Jan., 1.30, 4,00, 6.20, 8.35
THE SCARLET LETTER (15) Remake of the classic

DIE SCHRIET LETTER (15) Remake of the classic American novel. Odeon West End, Leicester Square 1.45, 530, 8.25

1.30, 3.45, 6.20, 8.45

① TO BE FOR (15) Nicole Kidman stars, Odern High Sr Sen 4.35, 9.30, 12.25cat (Sac); Odern Mecanine 2.25, 6.15, 8.40; Swits Can Odern Set 4.55, 7.20, 9.50, 12.55cat (Sac), 11.05 when the set of the TO WORG FOO (PG) Three drag queens drive peross America. Plaza 1.45, 4.00, 6.20, 8.40 ORY (18) Stevez ■ Manus States, 2 July 1900/1901 (10) Stevens
Schight Technics as the pury condecommands.
Warner West End 4.00, 6.30, 8.30, 11.20
■ INSTRUME HEROES (PG) A 12 year-old boy scarpes the amoieties of his ill mather and the pressed father by staying with his eccentric uncles. Tottenham Court Road MGM 2.05, 4.35,

7.00, 9.35; Ritty Cinema 2.00, 4.25, 7.00, 9.20; Screen on the Hill 2.35, 4.45, 7.00, 9.00 THE USBAL SUSPECTS (18) Five known (clons plan another crime whilst in police custody. Pulliam Road MGM 9.25: Panton Street MGM A WALK ST THE CLOHOS (PG) Kesses Receves

Stars. Trocaden MGM 11.55am, 215, 4.35, 7.00, 9.30; Wanter West End 1.30, 3.50, 6.15, 8.40, 11.00

 WHEN MOST IS FALLING (18) A conventional Curistian academic is soluted a flamboyant cur-cus personner. Psecadilly MGM 1.30, 3.45, 6.10 phase numbers 0171 except where noted

© FRERRI RSS [12] Meg Ryan Sirs. Focusion MGM 12-0, 3-0, 6-20, 9,10; Odern High Street Ken LSS, 7,10; Sviers Guinger Odern Sa LSG Sun 12-90; UP Illurieless 6-45, 9-0, 18 miser West End 1,50, 4,10, 7,00, 9-30, Lanidough 19005 W HE SHELL (15) Jupanese minimized about a laturistic city. Decadera MGM 12-20, 2-31, 4-25, 6-25, 8-25, 11,15 (Sat) □ GRAPETE [12] James Bond reincannated by Pierce Brossan. Barbican Courna 3,00, 600, 8-30; Chipman Ficture Heuse 1,00, 3,01, 9,15; Ealers Sweet MGM 935 9772; Cachea MGM 22-30, 3-30, 6-25, 8-25, 11,15 (Sat) □ GRAPETE [12] James Bond reincannated by Pierce Brossan. Barbican Courna 3,00, 600, 8-30; Chipman Ficture Heuse 1,00, 3,05, 9-10; Chipman High Street Heuse 1,00, 3,05, 9-10; Chipman High Street Heuse 1,00, 3,05, 9-10; Fibran MGM 930 937; Pandous Kentel MGM 930 937; Cachea MGM 827 9601; Haymarken MGM 830 1527; Pandous Hill Cournet 2, 90, 5,00, 8-35, 9-30, 9-15; Miller MGM 930 90, 17; Pandous Street MGM 930 90, 17; Pandous MGM 930, 17; Pandous MGM 930, 17; Pandous MGM 930, 17; Pandous MGM 930, 17; Pand

REPERTORY CINEMAS

SERTIMAN copposite Hampstead Tube NW3

(0171-435 1525)

The Madness Of King George [PG] Sat

12-30pm, 4-40pm, 8-50pm + The Draughtsman's Contract [15] 2-40pm, 6-50pm Debalog 1 (PG) San 1-20pm + Debalog 2 (PG)

2-30pm + Debalog 3 (PG) 3-40pm, 10-10pm

2-30pm + Debalog 3 (PG) 3-40pm + Debalog 4 (PG) 4-50pm + Les Dalabeliques (15)

8-40pm

EA CREMA The Mall SW1 (0171-950 36-47)

Developing Black Film in London Sat 10pm

Institute Benjamenta (15) Sat-Sun 2-30pm,

4-40pm, 6-50pm, 9pm Aardman Delighan/A

Close Shave (U) Sat-Sun 4-30pm, 6pm,

7-30pm Bomboy And 1 mar/The Mark Of

The Hand Sat 6-15pm Dear Sarab/The Visit

Sat-Sun 6-15pm Codes Of Homour Sat

8-10pm Dreaming Rivers/What My Mother

Tibld Me Sun 6-30pm Borning an Illusion

San 8-30pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (1) 71-437 B181)
Waterworld (12) Set Join Murlei's Weeding (15) Set 3 4 Spin While You Were Steeping, (PG) Set Gont Pulp Fiction (18) Set Lipin Cold Fever (15) Set 1 3 dyon Dolones Chiborne (18) Set 4 pin La Separation (PG) Set 6 4 Spin The Adventures Of Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert (15) Set 4 Spin 100 CHEMA Kingsland High Street E8 (1971-254 6677)
Tim Burton's The Nightman Before Christmas (PG) Set Hom Deliculessen (15) Set-Set 2 Spin + Poutsies (15) 4.05pin + City Of Lost Children (15) 4.15pin La Haine (15) Set Sut 6.45pin, 9pin Judge Direkt (15) Set Sut 6.45pin, 9pin Judge Direkt (15) Set State Set 15) Set Li Li Spin 100 CHEMA (2011 15) Fant Chibons CHEMA (2012 Provide Vicentific Chip Rock Stillers (2012 Provide Vicentific Chip Rock Chip Rock (2012 Provide Vicentific Chip Rock (2012 Pro

7205pm + A Nigal at the Opera (U) A-rayon Mattenancy MRS GMRF Fligh Stroet, Breatford TW8 (0181-568 1176)

Tam Burton's The Nightmate Before Christmass (PG) Set Lalyon in The Blook Midwinter (15) Set 6.45pm, 8.45pm; Sen 8.45pm Bectlejuke; (15) Sen 5.5pm 3.pm + Tam Burton's The Nightmater Before Christmas 4.45pm Apollo 13 (PG) Sen 6.50pm

Road Court Stoune Square, SWÎ (0171-730 1745) & Stoune Sq. 9 Dec, 3.30 & 7.30, in rep until 6 Jan, £5-£18, cours prafable.

8.30, Sat 5.00 & 8.30, [1] 4.00, £9-£28.50.

CHEPARY
Sam Mendes' revival of Soudheim.
Dorman Barchouse Eartham Street, WC2
(0171-369 17321 ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30,
[4][7] 3.00, cods 2 Mar, £12-£24.

REPERTORY CINEMAS

8.30pm Dreaming Rivers/What My Mother Rold Me San 6.30pm Burning an Illusion San 8.30pm.
Bif South Braik SEI (0171-928 3232)
The Masic (PG) Sat 4pm Public Buenny 115)
Sat 4.15pm Criss Cross Sat 6.15pm Beggars
O'l Life Sat 6.30pm Le Few Follet Sat
7.30pm Night Narse Sat 8.30pm Dentiny
Burns On The Radio (15) Sat 8.45pm Frieco
Jennyff Illy Turner San 3.45pm The Burnon's
The Nightmany Before Christmas (PG) San
4pm To Kill a Mockingbird (PG) San
4pm To Kill a Mockingbird (PG) San
4 Notar's Revenge San 7.30pm Midnight
Many San 8.40pm City O'l Loss Children
(15) San 8.45pm The Hatche Man San 6.30pm An
Actor's Revenge San 7.30pm Midnight
Many San 8.40pm City O'l Loss Children
(15) San 8.45pm The Bleak
Midwinter (15) San San 2.40pm (San)
4.50pm 7pm, 9.05pm Crumb (18) San
12.30pm + Clerks 2.50pm
THE PICTURE 1008E TURNER 510000 26 Commercial Street El (1017)—847 9326)
Singin' in the Rain San 2.30pm, 6.15pm
PRINCE CHIRE'S Letiester Place WC2 (1017)
437 8181)

HOLESSHE SHORES CHEEN Crisp Road WG
(0181-741 2255)
Gleen Or Gleenda? Sat Gove + Night Of The
Ghouls 7.10/ver + Plan 9 From Outer Space
(PG) 8.50/ver La Bete Humstne (PG) 8.0v
1.30/ver + Bringing Up Beby (PG) 3.15/ver
At The Circus (U) 8.0v
1.50/ver + Co West
7.25/ver + A Night at the Opera (U) 8.40/ver
HUMBHORES MEY CHIME STEP STEPS (Eth)
Steps

### WEST END

Matinees — [1]: Sun, [3]: The, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thu, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sut BL000 BRODERS

Phaenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ◆ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45, [5] 3.00, [7] 4.00, £9.50-£27.50,

Street Akdwych, WC2 (0171-93U8800) Carden, The-The 8.00, Fri 5.30 &

New Lordon Drury Lane, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45, [3][7] 3.00, £10.50-£30.

COLT FOR YOU

Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1
(U171-734 89511 © Leie Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45, [7] 3.00, £1 1.50-£30. BEO Pager Revisal of Terry Johnson's hir comedy. Snow Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) & Char X. Mos-Fri R.00, Sat 8.15, [4] 2.30, [7] 5.00, £10-£22-50.

00FT DRESS FOR DUBLER.
Duchess Catherine Struet, WC2 (0171-494
9075/cc 379 4444) ← Covent Garden, Mon-Fri 8.00, [7] 5.00 & 8.30, [4] 3.00, 53-£18.50.

FRANCINE MUSICAL.
The hit film and TV series developed into a

nue um man ann 1 V series developed into a stage musical by David de Silva. Cambridge Eartham Street, WCZ (0171-494 5090) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7:30, [4][7] 3:00, £10-£25.

Five Girts Mental Mile Albery St. Migrain's Lanc., WC2 (017)-369 1730(cc 867 11)1) ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-The 8.00, Fri & Sai 6.00 & 8.45, eachs 13 Jun. 25-528.

Filler MORE?
Ray Cooney's Intest connedy.
Playbouse Northumberland Avenue, WC2
(0171-839 401) 9 Emballment, Mon-Sat
8.00, [5] 3.00, [7] 5.00, £5-£20.

THE GLESS INTOLEDED SAME METALES SAME METALES CHARACTER 
GREASE

Demonsor Tottenham Court Road, W1

(0171-416 6060) - That Ct Rd. Mod-Sat 7.30, [4][7] 3.00, £10-£27.50.

HUSSAM 5 LINUX. Leo McKern in Harold Brighouse's comed Lyric Shafteshury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ⊕ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30, [7] 3.00, cods 3 Feb, £8-£24.

HISTERN Revival of Terry Johnson's clover comedy. Date of Tork's St. Martin's Lane, WCZ (017)-836 5122) D Leic Sql Charling X. Mos-Sat 7.30, [5][7] 3.00, ends 27 Jan, £5-£22.50.

| Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digital | Digi

Acchained production of Priestley's thriller. Garrick Chaning Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) & Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 8.15, [4] 2.30. [7] 5.00, ends 6 Jan, £9-£24.50.

Hackfased aman Twomes entertainer. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SWI (0171-834 1317) BR/O Victoria, Mon-Sat 7,30, [4][7] 3,00, £12,50.£30,

HORSON'S CHOICE

Jan. FIO-F25.

AM MISPECTOR CALLS

JEMPY Sengrose and Hayley Mills in Richard Harris' duiller. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenne, W1 (0171–494 5070) © Pice Circ. Mon-Fri 8.00, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, [5] 3.00, ends 6 Jan, £8-622.

ROWERSHOE STRENGS COMENIA Crisp Road WG

O Pice Circ.

MANUA MANUA

Jerry Herman's romantic nursical.

Picradilly Denomin St (369 1734) O Pice Circ.

Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, £17-50, £32-50. MARKE
Show based on the life of Marie Lloyd,
Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238)

Holborn, Sun 3.30, 87.50-817.50.

THE MASTER BRADER
Peter Hall directs Alan Bates in Breen.
Theave Royal Haymarket, SWI (0171-930
8800) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00,
ends 6 Jan, £10-£26.

entis Sugon Theore Royal, Dray Lave Catherino Street, WC2 (0171-494-900)) & Covent Garden, Mcna-Sat 7-45, [4][7] 3.00, £8.50-£30. THE HORSETRAP 57 March 1 West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00, [3] 2.45, [7]

5.00, £8-£22. ROTAL MATTONAL THEATRE: Micher Courses And Hir Children Disson Rigg in Brechts's tale of Survival. Today 2.00 & 7.15. Recent was a survival, strong 200 or 7.15. Lynchon: Resummate And Beldunders Are Band Matthew Prancis' production of Stoppard's countly. Resign 7.30.

Contribe: Ectard I From Show stars as the king. Panight 710. Olivier & Lynchton £7.50-£22.50. Costesioe . £10-£14.50. Day sens from 10am. South Bunk (0171-928 2252) BR/© Waterloo.

Dente (11 12 700 mans)

ROTAL SHARESPERRE CONTINUE

The Barbican:
A Christone Carel Ean Judge's production of
Dickens' rale. Today 2.00 & 7.15. The Fig. Sea of Man Dennis Protect portrays Christ as a man of the people. Today 2.00 & 7.15.
Barbican Theatre £6-£24. The Fix £10-£16.
Barbican Centre, ECZ (0171-638 8891)

— Barbican Centre, ECZ (0171-638 8891)

01/FEN Landon Polladhan Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 50335038) & Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7-30, [4][7] 2-30, £10-£30. HE PRINTED OF THE OPEN Her Majorn's Haymarker, SW1 (0171-494 5400) & Picc Circ. Moss-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, £94230.

PRISONER CELL NLOCK H
Musical percety of the cult TV strice.
Queen's Statilestony America, W1 (0171-494
\$640) \to Price Circ. Mono-Tire \$00. Fet & Set
6.00 & 8.45, cmds 13 Jan, £7.50-£24.

THE BOY CORNECTION STUDY
Musical celebrating his life and work.
Whitehalf Whitehall, SWI (1711-369 1725)
BR/-© Charling X. The-This 8.00, Fri & Sar
5.30 & 8.30, [1] 4.00, ends 18 Feb, £6-£25.

THE SHARESPEARE REVOE Sethical Shakespearean revue. Visualestiffe Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/G-Chatring X, Mon-Fri 8.00, Set 5.30 & 8.30, [4] 2.30, \$10-822.50.

STRELIGHT EIPHESS

Apollo Victoria Welton Royd, SW1 (0171-416
6070) BR/49 Victoria. Man-Sat 7.45, [3][7]
3.00, £12.50-£30.

CHARLES TROUBLES AND

Adelphi Strand (0171-344 (055) & Charing X. Mon-Sa; 7.45, [5][7] 3.00, £15-£32-50.

A conductor is targed by Nazism.

A conductor is targed by Nazism.

Criterion Piccoding Circus, 971 (0171-369)
1747) 9 PiccoCirc. Mon Sat 7-30. [4][7] 2-30, ends 9 Dec. £7-£22.50.

Roy Marsden as Long John Silver, Mermaid Puddie Dock, EC4 (0171-236 2211)

RI/O Blackfriars. Times vary -2.00/2.30 & 7.00 most days, ends 13-Jan, £11.50-£18.50, concs available. TOWNY STEELE-WHAT A SHOW? Spectacular with a 23-strong company.
Prince of Wisler Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) & Leie Sq/Piec Circ. Mon-Sat 8.00, [4] 3.00. [7] 5.00, ends 6.1an, £12.50-£25.

[4] State [7] State and the state [1:25-5-25].

Also Bermett's version of Grahame's novel.

Old Ver Waterloop Road, SEL (0) 71-9287615.

BR/O Waterloop Anno 524 730. [4], [7] 2.30, ends 6 Jan, 55.75-428.75. THE WOMEN IN BLACK

SETURIJ INE. WEST ERRIJ
BUSH THEORE:
Inhus in these Powerful debus from the young
Scottish writer Durid Harrower. More-Sat
Span, erds 23 Dec. 29.50, copter 56.
Shepherfs Bush Green, W12 (0181-743
3388) Shepherful Bush.
Minipstein Thiorne:
According to Hopin Robin Lefovre directs
William Gunchura's comic Book at men's
changing to less. More-Sat Span, mast Sat 4pm,
ends 13 Jan. 28-21-30, copes available.
Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301)
Swiss Cottage.
IRCCLE BEARE:

Institute the last Sharred Experience stage Engene O'Neil's table of family rivuly. Mon-Sar 8pm, mars Sat 4pm, ends 16 Dec. £7.50-£13, o'nes available. Kilvura Figh Road, NW6 (1):71-328 1000) ◆ Kilbura.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

TRICICLE THEATRE

DUJUGH PLEURE GALLERY
Double Passion and Publics Van Dyck's portrains
of Venezia Samley and George Digby, The-Pel Duro-Spor, San 11 gen-Spor, Son Spor-Spor, ends 14 Jan. 22, conc 21, free Printy,
Gallery Road, SE21 (0181-693 \$224) BR: Gallery Road, SE21 (0181-693 5254) BR: West Dulwich/North Dulwich. FLOWERS EAST AT LONDON FIELDS

John Rama New paintings inspired by Graham Greene. The Sun 1000-form, ends 7 Jan, free. Richmond Rond, E8 (0181-533 5554) BR:Cambridge Fields. PLYMBERD GALLERY national saction Art and Power Europe under the dictains 1930-1945 Includes work by Nolde, Bechmann, Klos and Barlach, Mon-Sun 10am-6pen (until 8pm The & Weel), ends 21 Jan. 25, concs 43-35. Belvedere Road, SEI (0171-960 4242) 279 45, Weel).

ISSUBBALLERY
Joids Know Five new aculptures. Mon-Pri
Junn-épon, Set 10am-épon, ende 6 Jan, free.
Lemma Stroce, NW1 (0171-724 2739)

- Edgware Road.

O-Eugware Nome.

Hitties LERI British Printings from National
That Collections Mon-Sex (Osm-Span (West
antil Span), Sun 2pan-Span, cattle 10 Mar. #5,
(£1 Wed. 1-50pan-Span) Thrisiger Square,
WC2 (0171-8593321) — Char Cross. MCIII (1-13-3521) \*\* Cipir Crois.
MOTAL ACRORNI OF ARTS
Miles: The Art of a Doubleset See Critic's Choice.
Each 21. Jun. 45, coocs 13.50.
Berid Hockey Drawing retruspective. MonSen. 10 mn-6pm, ends 28 Jun. 14.50, cones
C3.50. Burlington House, Pleanadilly, W1
(0171-439 7438) \*\* Pleanadilly Circus.

SARCH CHIEFY
Short by Glone Brown,
Thoughthis I Work by Glone Brown,
Thoughthen Papet and Kerry

CLASSICAL BEYOND THE WEST END

Oxford

ASSENCE OF MESSERS IN THE CHILDREN ASSESSED AS A SECOND TO A CHILDREN AS A SECOND ASSESSED AS A SECOND ASSESSED AS A SECOND AS A SECOND ASSESSED AS A SECOND ASSESSED AS A SECOND ASSESSED AS A SECOND ASSESSED AS A SECOND

PRINTER LPTILLE

EUDIE IZZARO AT SPANTESORIAT INFAINE Tonight Cpm, Sun 7.30pm, Staffenbury Avenne, WC2 (0171-379 5399) ◆ Holborn, &c-£17.50.

BUT DREEM OF HER MARSIY'S THEORE.
Som Spor., Haymartes, SW1 (0171-494 5400).

Pleastilly Circus, £10-£12.

LONDON COMEDY FESTIVAL AT RIVERSINE STROKES: An exemply with the LLEWELLING Transport

COMEDY

London

Bath HREF Bath Chural Socialy/State Flanded's Messials, accompanied by the Lorion Chamber Orchestra, Braight 7,30pm.£5.50.£11. (01275-44831)

23rd Plano Concerto and Prague Symphony with Stravinsky's Polcinella, Tonight Spnt, E6-£1950. Barbican Centre (0171-638 8891)

Mitaum Chein Gregory Handel's Messiah. Rungta 7pm. 66-220. Ordenska of St. Jahr Williamsk Berroque musics OUTERN ELIZABETH RALL QUEEN BLANKIN BALL

Gristian Zacharius Frank Peter Zimmermann
and Heimrich Schaff in Boerfroven and Ravel
trics. Rought 7.45pm. E5-216.
Landon Schooleth Stone Lifewithout Christman
by Giya Ravelochi, Sun 70m. E6-E12.50.
South Bank Centre, SEI (0171-9604242)
BRAW Waterloo.

ROTAL FESTIVAL FAUL. Intra. Institutional Charles and Carshain, Cole Porter and the Strauss family, with baritone Thomes Hungson, Sun бут, 13-620, South Bank Centre, SEI (0171-960 4242) BR/O-Waterloo.

DANCE London Brown, OPERA BROWSE
Beyel Builde: Beyle Young's Bossin's Buildet. See
Critic's Choice. Bouight 'Pyon, Optinicipalis:
Mulcharmodor/Bussel's/Kumelawayi, Instrumed
artistes: Benjamin/Boll/Canaidy/Hevist) £1£34. Covt Odn (304 4000) & Covent Ganden

SMUST WELLS

Huste Businist Pall-length dancework about the sport, by Mouse Pendiction, Boday 2.30pm. 4.7.30pm. 5.722.0p. of loss available, Rosebery Ave (U171-Z788916) 

Angel.

London LIGHTON BALL LIMOUS STREPHONY ORCHESTOR.
A Midwanner Right strems See Crisic's Choice.
Son 30m. 25-200. Barbican Centre, EC2
(0171-638 8931) & Moorgane/Burbican,
LIMOUS COUSTING BRICHER HUMOURI, OPERA
The Burber of Saville Locatham Miller's original
staging of Roseins, under Jame (Slover's
belon. Paright 6.30pm. 28-250, St Martin's
Lanc, WC2 (0171-632 8300) & Leic Square.

# BOYAL OF HIS BORNE: BOYAL OF PAR. English Rath Feefresk, La Beorgack Genefit Indexes/ Bles and Sauver A double-bill of Lufty's Opportion-ballet and Paracell's opera, directed by Alain Germain and Ton Hawton responsively. Sum Jone. 2-655. Covent Garden, W.C.2 (0171-304-4000) & Cove Gdn.

10171-634 8259) BR: South Hampstead,
UNE 641.697

UNE 641.697

United Paintings, sculpture and repeatries to cluding work by Holbein; Hilliand and Roberts, Enth 7 Jan. 25, concs. £3.

Fichaling Watches is Roberts, Hilliand and Roberts, Enth 7 Jan. 25, concs. £3.

Fichaling Bratiness is Roberts Himid. Mon-Sain 10mm-5.50pm, ands 10 Mars, free.

Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) ◆ Pimilion.

Has Sathad Guitar pyrotechnician, Westebley Areas Empire Way (0.81-900 1.734) Westebley Park, Sub 6.31(sin; 215. HAZZ, FOLK, WORLD ETC

before 10pm.

legral (Monto The Girl From Innnenna returns, Jusz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-344 (044) + Camden Rows, Tonight & Sun Tpon, £15-£18.

### LITERATURE

poetry and music read by Jane Lapotaire and Timothy West. Liberal Jewish Sunagega 28 St John's Wond Read NW8 (0171-286 5181) Sun 7pm, £10, cones £3.

Swalls&d

On the foury Side Erry Praichett, Rober Akliss,
Bob Shaw and Lionel Fanthorpe discuss the
funny side of Sci-Fi. Ty Lien Scottset Piece
(01782-463980) Today 4.15pm, E4, concs E3.

Son Spm, 23-210.50.

Cheltenitam
Camadan Spa Quality butques Fair 40 seams of
furniture, jowelleys, silver, powerlain and
more. Physike Prosp Rosen Magazon Albert,
Broad (UEM-22777/90: \$23600) Sun tileun4.30pm, £1, moder-14's free.

roun around the UK showing rare, out of print my general books. Hotal Restell Restell Round WC (0171-837 6478) 

Restell Round Systema Bering Opera: La Bohene Aidan Lang & original production. Rouight 7,15pm £19-£44. (01483-761144)

20130) Tenight 6.30pm, phone he availability.

Louidell
The Stow Besse All-nighter for the Madchmet' mounthy. Behave Achilery Stockwell
Road SW9 (0171-924 9999) BR/O- Briston.
Tanight Syn-tum, phone for wallshility.
Tanights Syn-tum, phone for wallshility.
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Disparedly Clanden Lock, Clinik Perm Road
NW1 (0171-207 1999) O- Camplen Town.
Sun 7.30pm, El-SU.
East 17 Tough but behör East Looden swingbens boys. Royal Albert Hall Kenninghon
Oure SW7 (10171-589 8212) O- High Street
Ken. Weight & Son 6.45pm, El-SU-1950.
KBPC Bensit EVC, Chim Black, Bewerley
Craven and Martyn Joseph. Wensidey Avens
Empire Way (0.181-908 1234) O- Wennidey
Park, Tanigha 6.30pm, 27.50-613.50.

Jas Sathad Guitar pyrotechnician. Wetabley

LORGON.

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♦ BECERTAIN, JORGEN & SAME TANGEN AND COOKS EST.

Robb James Rag Sales New York style sales 11ploce. HQ West Yard NW) (0171-485 6044)

◆ Camdon There. Freight Spus-Zam. Ef. E4

Long There

7pm, £15-£18.

Say Jayar & Shaniny Rare groove vibes king,
The Rindmire Chapel Markot N1 (0171-713
S859) & Angel, Tomght Spm, £12, comes
£10; means £8.

Zin Rinmship-Jazz with Lucky Ranku and
Mervyn Africa, The Rindmare Chapel Markot N1 (0171-713 5859) & Angel, Sun Spm,
£7, comes £5.

London
The Quality Of Many An ambology of Jewish

Swansea

Cambridge
Past iteliann's Hypotte Stow Combination of
the scientific and the mysterious. Core
Exchange Wheeler Street (01223-357851)
Son Sym, 19-110.50.

London

Christian Gala Count Frank Bough introduces
a feast of seasonal and traditional music.
Bathion Fall Bathiann Centre ECZ (0171633 8871-9 Moorgate/Barbican, Sun Sput,
18.50-621-50.

IRSO-EA SU.

The Bullist Collectes Restat & Film Show A head selection of Beatles related items on display and for sale. Bormington Hotel Southstandton Row WCI (0171-342 2025) → Holborn. Son 10am-Spra, £3.

Carightes Light A biaze of cultur for shopness throughout the Christmus period. Bond

730 3450) ↔ Cationa Cancas, extres o sun, deal-origing, free, Rational Cal Cals Slaw The largest car show in the world with all varieties of cats, pedigree and per. Of impler Hammenswink Rd (0177-603\* 3344) ↔ Earls Ct. Today, phone for details.

Cindy 3 Chelen Pin' 75 exhibitors display items ranging from antiques to bris-4-bris. Today 10mm-5.30pm, 60p, child froe. Halmaning's Intique Pin' General's antiques fair including furniture & decorative objects for the hours. Chelen Old Town Hall King's Road SW3 ((171-352 3619) © Sicano Statute Sun I Imm-5om. El.

Annington Brocasta Adiques Fair Over 200 deal-ers selling antique textiles, quilts, carpets, decorative furniture and interior design accessories. Kentington Town Hall Herrit Street W8 (0171-437 5464) 

High St Kennington. Sun )) am-Spin, 9am-)) am £10, 11am-2pm £3.50; 2pm-5cm £2.50.

### **AUCTIONS**

Contraction: Currentness trees and commercial stocks, including electrical goods and com-puters, Wed (11mm). David Foyle, Unit 5, Church Farm Business Centre, Church Road, Leckhampson (67242 241111).

Road, Leckhampton (61242 241111).
Charley Retail stock of shotgans, airgums and country chothing at the Auction Centre, Preston Rd, Whitele le Woods, The (6pm).
Smith Hodgleirson & McGinty (01257 263633).
Remphas Jeling Lalcostarshire: Over 12,000 pairs of footwerr – ladies', gants', childrens', jellies, cantras, trainers, boots, sloppers, The (11am), Peach Auctions, 51 Main St. (01455 28588).
Naturating: Remaining contents of Roundway Hodgistal, Devicta, including church furniture – chairs, putpit, alter table – and Victorian and efficies, The (11am), Hildligh Auctions,

Signature Court fracting Estate (1000) Biss: Whes, Priday (10am), TWGaze, Roy-don Road (01379 650306). oon Rom (ULS/) codesto).

Salta-lie-labiled: Without reserve antiques and modern furniture and effects from two residences, one of a woman who lived to age of 104. Wed (Llam), C.B.Shappard & Son, 87 Chatsworth St (01773 872419).

Son, 87 Chatsworth St (91773 872419).
Bibrough nur York On-she contents of Bilbrough Manor loded - formative, hotel plate
and entire contents of lottchen, Monday
(11am), Therason Roddick & Lauric
(01228-28939).
Bodon Spe: In the village hall - named ceramics (Dreaden, Shelley etc.), including ceramic figures, gold, Jewalfery and silver, coal
boxes, minor, Monday [6,30pm). Malcolm's
(01977-684971).
Bries Santh Bumbarside: Three collections - Dr

Brigg, Santh Blumburside: Three collections - Dr Who collection of strips' lamps, com-marine collection of strips' lamps, compasses, beta, chain and mape to districter lugs, ten and dumer services, Thesday (9.30mr). Dickinson Duvy and Markham, Old Coursi Road 101652-653666). Chairms 150 loss of Russian art, including Lisbins \*The Secretary of the Communist Part on Harvesting Day", 1952, est £100-2011 followed by Christinus deorative items and furniture, Monday (6pm), Lots Road Galleries (0171-351 7771).

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Gallerica (0171-351 7771).

Partle Three-day sale includes a Sinctair CS, two Victorian pond yachts, 23 dining tables, lachading George III and Regency. 40 Onemal express, scientific instruments, fishing tackle, scientific instruments, optemera, Tuesday-Thursday (10.30am drily), Loves, 52 Canal Street (01738 633337). Turputsy: Victoriana, including a collection of antique and modern jewellery, Wednesday (9.30am). Becaton Caule Salertoons, Beaston Smithfield ((01829-260318). Antiques Trade Gazette (0171-930 4957). Government Anction News (0171-353 730), fax hotline 0336-423488).

FAIRS Winnighton Aufture: 1200 stands, St Marrio's Market, Edgbeston St, Wed (01782 595805). Auftralias Dusters Astochalos: Britannia Hotel, Crossenio Square, London WI, tomorrow (ADA Fairs 0181-579 1585). Mammith Latenton: 300 stalls, Grandy Halls, tomorrow (01462 523405). concrow (81455 Z33495).
Allie's hutique Marieta 13-25 Churcha Street,
London NW3, tomorrow (0171-723 6066).
Halmaning's halique Ciristants: Chelsea Town
Flall, King's Rd, London SW3 (0181-788
5726). 5025).

Minus Antiques: Royal Agricultural Hall, Vincent Sq. 150 exhibitors, tomorrow (0171-254
4054).

Art Buce: 120 stalls, Butternes: Town Hall,
Laveader Hill, London SWI1, tomorrow
(Deco Fairs 0181-663 3323).

Park Isne Sraud Antiques: Over 100 dealers.
Piccasilly Hotel, London WI, tomorrow
(Century Antique Fairs 0171-794 3551).

# church services

ST PHRE'S GRITHCHRALT. Save 11C; 2.4Sem Mattine.

11.6m Sung Ericharta, Matat as honorem Saver.

1.1Spm Evennong, Gray he F minor, Canon Ruch

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mor. Alastiat Flacic, 5-4Spm Grgon Recutal, David

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12 Land State Enchartat, Minss men par per per control of the part of t

Rector. St. James L. Frontolly: 8.30mm HC, 11am Swag Es-charms, The Rev Dennick Resear; 5.45pm Evening.

Second Sunday in Advent.

Long. Design Court and Clinical Street.

Long. Desig

6.Nipon Evolting Service, The Rev Bernhard Schönumann.
38 Stay Millett, Vicerage Gair, Wit. San HC.; 9.30 pm Parick Euclineau. The Rev F. Gelle; 11, Sam Chorni Mathin, The Vicent 2.10 pm HC.; 6.30 pm Evensoug. The Vicer.
2.51 pm Wordington, Remainstone Park Read, SSI1; 9.51 pm Moreing Prayer; Home Parick Mass, Fr Dischael Flatt, Spin Misse, 3-30 pm Bromang Prayer and Boundardon.
28 Singly, Bouene Street, SWI: Sant, Idam Low Mass, 11 am Hagt Mass, Missa brevis (Assens).
Casson Fetter Philapson, Sym Schonz, Evensong and Solemn Beingdieroys, Tym Low Mass.

Ger Lady of the Resemption, Warwick Street, W1: Sum. Jinn Mass. Hum Sung Lade Mass. West-ers wind mass Huwarer; Liben. Spin. Spin Mess. From Breet, W1: 7.70mm, 6.35mm, John Mass. Hum Latin Mass. Mine to completion (Langian);

time Mays.

City Tempin, Halborn Vinther, ECC: 10,30nm, The Rev Man Hilborn.

Chairma Heatherman Charata, King's Road, SW3: 11am, The Rev LE, Davis, and Max Christiane Beist-bidiger from FWC, The New J.E. Davis.

Hinds Streat, Hollbedist Charata, W1: 10nm BC, Donald Sopper, 11an, Dorsen Hang, 6.50pm Sonday Night Group, Drimen Hale.

Westhalaster Cantral Hall (Methodist), SW1: 11am, 6.30pm, The Rev De Peter Graves.

Hallaster Hall Hall (Methodist), SW1: 11am, 6.30pm, The Rev De Peter Graves.

Liam, 6.30pm, The Rev Justin Weither-Rig. Prop. 1 and 1 Mast.

R Asso & St Agues (Lutheran), Oreshan Street,
BC2: Lian Chural HC, The Rev Paul D.
Schmiege. 7pm Lutheran Chural Vospara, Nun

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TE GUISTONE COMMENT OF THE TENT OF THE TEN Aspen Buckey Wight 9.45per BBC2

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Capture In The Secret of the Secret

Commer Children Spin C2 More film bush twen problem the part that selant and selection as 13-10 have filmed by Rebert Hanks Sound shile services and 3-10 have filmed by the excellent the excellent of colors over the last control.

Soldier Soldier 9pm (TV. The last epsione of this series bades adieu to Robon Green, gone to Join his other singing trait, derome Flynn, on bigger and, they hope, better things (3725). Ghost Stories 9.30pm C4. The trankless color ghost witting for celebs, talking to those who have put P.I. Proby, Britt Edand and Migel Benn to paper (27102). Network First 10.40pm TV-@bove!.

Wives discuss what it's fike to discover their husbands are transvestites (381522).

Methories of a Childhood on the Veldt B.30pm R4. Sir Laurens van der Post talks, enchantingly, about his idylic South African boyhood, and offers some trazify benevolent thoughts on the state of the modern world.

Film: Bugsy 9pm C4 (above). He's racially, socially and physically all wrong. but Warren Beatty manages to impersonate gangster "Bugsy" Siegel by shere force of personality (9394).

Modern Times 9-50pm BBC2. Behind

the scenes at John Lewis, Middle England's department store of choice but also an extraordinary experiment in "capitalist communism" (737416). The Betrayed 11pm C4. Clive Gordon's take on the war in Chechnya (300597).

Over the Water 8pm R2. A rove through the modern Irish folk scene presented by the singer Mary Black – she's a little gushing in places, but as a whole it's surprisingly enjoyable even for the nonfolk fan.

Film: Pacific Heights (John Schlesinger 1990 US) 9pm FFV. Terrific Michael Keaton is the sitting tenant from hell in dinky couple Melanie Griffith and Matthew Modine's sprawling new house in San Francisco (7337).

Secret Lives: Howard Hughes 9pm C4 (above). The entrepreneur, movie mogul and aviator who influenced American Presidents while living with his half halfway down his back, six-inch finger nails and a morbid fear of germs (8207).

White Settlers 7.20pm R4. Organisations dedicated to making life uncomfortable for English incomers have sprung up across Scotland. Settlers talk about their feelings for their adopted country, and activists talk about how much they dislike them.

Coogan's Run 9.30pm BBC2 (above). The latest of Steve Coogan's incamations teams him with Patrick Marber as Natural Born Quizzers, two sociopathic, trivia-obsessed half-brothers on the run halfway through their life sentence for murder (B2221). Film: Pelle the Conqueror (Bille August

1987 Den/Swe) 12am BBC2. It's tough in turn-of-the-century Denmark, but just as bad in Sweden as Max von Sydow's cowherd and his son discover (526351).

Café Days 8.50pm R4. Simon Parkes opens a new series looking at café society across Europe by sampling the ambience in Paris. Re-create the atmosphere at home by smoking a few Gauloises and pointedly ignoring anybody else in the room.

### Sunday Television and Radio

6.45 The Burning Hills (Stuart Heisler 1956 ... US). Cattle baron grief as a young farmer sets out to avenge the murder of his brother (824958).

8.15 This Multimedia Business (S) (6437294).

9.30 Preakfast with Frost (14720).
9.30 Premise of His Glory. From the Church of St.
Thomas of Camerbury in Brentwood (6171861).
10.15 See Hear! (S) (802836). 10.15 See Fleat (5) (502550). 10.45 Suenos – World Spanish (1974107).

10.45 Stienos – worm spanson 11.00 The 11th Hour (S) (59584). 12.00 CountryFile (S) (65010). 12.30 On the Record (21861). \*

1.30 EastEnders. Omnibus (S) (1323869), \* 2.55 Wings of the Apache (David Green 1990) US). Post-Reaganite Top Gun with helicopters as Nicolas Cage and Tommy Lee Jones chase drugs barons and Sean Young, of all people, mops their brows (5422039). \*
4.15 The Bookworm. Garrison Keilkor performs.

extracts from his new book (S) (248229). \* 4.45 The Clothes Show (S) (1273855). \*
5.10 Lifeline. Appeal on behalf of Horticultural Therapy (S) (3703590). \* 5.20 The Great Antiques Hunt (S) (5437590). \*

6.00 News; Weather (376213). \*
6.20 Local News (624359).
6.25 Songs of Praise. From Masada, the Dead Sea.

Sethlehem and the Roman amphitheatre at Caesarea: What a jatint (S) (52.1978). \*
7.00 Just William (S) (3382). \*
7.30 Sports Review of the Year. The annual gathering of the Pringle sweaters (S) (13126). 9.30 The Vicar of Dibley (R) (S) (62300). \*

10.00 News, Weather (952923). \*
10.15 An Evening with Sir Peter Ustinov. See Preview, p32 (214213). 11.00 Heart of the Matter. Joan Bakewell asks whether

the maral responsibility for the care of the elderly lies with their families, the old themselves or with the state (S) (865861). 11.40 ESS Nobody's Foot (Evelyn Purcell 1986 US).

But also nothing to stay up for either, just a life, with Rosanna Arquette as a waitress with a past to live down (958316). \* 1.20 The Sky at Night. The latest news about the

Galileo probe to Jupites (1045956).

1.40 Weather (2200237). To 1.45am.
REGIONS, Wales: 12.00pm Homeland. 5.10 Lifeline.
1.40 News: #L: 2.55pm Now You're Talking. 3.20 One Man and His Dog, 4.05 Our Roving Reporter. 10.15 Seamus Heaney - a Celebration 11.15 An Evening with Sir Peter Ustinov 12.00 Heart of the Matter. 12.40

Local News, 12.45 Film: Movers and Shakers.

### BBC2

. 7.30 Children's BBC: Tales of the Tooth Fairles. 7.35 The Adventures of Skippy, 8.00 Ptaydays, B.20 Mortimer and Arabel, 8.35 Jackanory, B.50 Bitsa, 9.05 The Animals of Farthing Wood, 9.30 Skeleton Warriors. 9.55 Travel Bug. 10.25 Grange Hill. 10.50 The Queen's Nose. 11.15 Weekend Break.

11,40 Star Trek (R) (4544671). \* 12.30 The Sunday Show. (S) (9152316).
1.15 The O Zone. Featuring Menswear and Ruth (R)

(S) (48909497).

1.30 Around Westminster (95749).

2.00 Devilfish. Giant octopuses (R) (S) (7080297).

2.40 Signal Five Days One Summer (Fred Zinnemann 1982 US). Elegantly slow tale of adultery and mountain climbing with Sean Connery and niece Betsy Brantley arriving in the Swiss Alps of the 1930s (81276126).

4.15 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. John Simpson introduces a short series of programmes on human rights (S) (8255300). 4.25 Ski Sunday. The Men's Downhill from Val D'Isere

(1779687). 5.00 Rugby Special. Gloucester vs Western Samoa (S)

6.00 The Trials of Life. David Attenborough again, this time explaining courtship (R) (S) (722774). 6.50 On the Road Again. Simon Dring runs the gauntlet of heavily armed Islamic militants along the Karakoram Highway (S) (988107). \*
7.20 The Wilderness Years. See Preview, p.32 (S)

8.20 The Money Programme. The price war between mobile phone operators Orange, Vodaphone and Celinet (433584). \*

9.00 The Mrs Merton Show (S) (6107). \* 9.30 FIED Out of Africa (Sydney Pollack 1985 US). Overacting and a bizarre Danish accent in a beautifully photographed Kenya as Meryl Streep plays Karen Blixen, farming coffee with alcoholic Swedish count Klaus Maria Brandauer and taking a passing fancy to English adventurer Robert 12.05 Human Rights, Human Wrongs (R) (S)

12.15 Dreamchild (Gavin Millar 1985 UK). Charming, intelligent, Dennis Potter-scripted look at the relationship between the little girl who inspired Alice in Wonderland, and its creator, the Reverend Charles Dodgson (terrific Ian Holm).

(843527). \* To 1.45am.
2.00 The Learning Zone. To 6.00am.
REGIONS, Wales: 1.30pm Welsh Lobby .2.10 Film: 84
Charing Cross Road. 3.45 Scrum 5 Live and Ski Sunday. Wt: 1.30pm 29 Bedford Street.

### ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News and Sport, 7.00 The Sunday Programme (68039).

8.00 Disney Club (S) (96809774). \* 10.15 Link. With disabled playwright Susan Hill (S) (7642671). \*

10.30 This Sunday. Coronation Street's Bill Roache continues his quest for the spirit of Christmas. Oh joy. Plus, 11.00 Morning Worship from Our Lady and St Joseph, Carlisle (S) (62132). \*

12.30 Crosstalk (89132). 1.00 News, Weather (48080316). 1.10 The South Bank Show. Behind the scenes of

Coronation Street again (R) (6643316). 2.10 Opening Shot (S) (41902107). 2.40 EAST Carry on Henry (Gerald Thomas 1970 UK). Sid James is Henry VIII, Joan Sims his wife,

uni. Sid James is Henry VIII, Joan Sims his whe and Charles Hawtrey plays Sir Roger de Lodgerley (4448497). 4.05 The Sunday Match (5450836). 5.05 The Practice (2595213). 5.35 Jane Asher's 12 Days of Christmas (462478).

6.05 London Tonight (729861), \*
6.20 News, Weather (705316), \*
6.30 Schofield's Quest (\$) (395).
7.00 HeartBeat. A new schoolteacher catches Nick's

eye in the last episode in the series of this hugely popular 1960s plod drama (S) (6213). 8.00 The Beatles Anthology. The latest tranche from the Moptop archives finds the boys secure in the hearts of young Americans, returning home to knock out "Help!" and "Yesterday", but the hairline cracks are beginning to appear with all

the pressure to carry on succeeding (\$) (8861). 9.00 London's Burning (\$) (2497). \* 10.00 In Search of James Bond with Jonathan Ross. Paul McCartney, Honor Blackman, Robbie Coltrane and Sean Bean help out. See Preview, p32 (S) (5584).

11.00 News, Weather (151313). \*

11.25 London Stage 95 (901890). 11.55 (1981) Deathtrap (Sidney Lumet 1982 US). Invites over newcomer Christopher Reeve in order to steal his manuscript and pass it off as his own in this set-bound but enjoyable screen version of lra Levin's play (99749403). 2.05 Sledge Hammer! (6628633).

2.35 Hollywood Report (R) (S) (8012459). Cue the Music. Frank Zappa's last concert performance (5481072).

4.05 Opening Shot (R) (90428091). 4.30 Highdays and Holidays (54977879). 4.55 Travel Trails (1032053). 5.30 News (13701). To 6.00am.

### Channel 4

6.00 Blitz! (R) (2232395). 6.55 The Herbs (R) (7187923). 7.10 Lift Off (R) (S) (4167300).

7.40 The Great Bong (S) (7232478). 7.55 The Baby-Sitters Club (7769749). 8.25 Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego? (S) (5316107). 8.50 Exceptuad (S) (3160774). 9.20 Running the Halls (R) (S) (8797671). \*

9.45 The Pink Panther Show (\$117044519). 10.00 Aaahh!!!! Real Monsters! (S) (7723590). \*
10.15 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (2998652). \*
10.40 Wise Up. 11 to 15-year-olds make reportage (S)

(8891039). 11.15 Rawhide (860010). 12.15 Mission Impossible, Jim's mission, should he choose to accept it, is to stop an underworld tyrant kidnapping a witness in a case against him

(143855). 1.15 Football Italia. Juventus vs Sampdoria (53032297).

3.30 III 12 Angry Men (Sidney Lumet 1957 US). Henry Fonda tries to instil some reasonable doubl into his lellow jurors in Lumet's great liberal classic (457045). 5.15 Matrix, Computer animation from John Whitney.

Then News Summary and Weather (361 3923). 5.30 Hollycaks. Last Monday's episode. Well, drop everything (R) (S) (294).
 6.00 The Persuaders! Lord Brett Sinclair raises an

eyebrow when a derelict old mansion he owns suddenly springs to life (99555). \*
7.00 Equinox, British designers Dick Powell and Richard Seymour explain the X-factor behind Just-inducing design (S) (4855). \* B.00 Soviet Echoes. Tenor Ivan Kozlovski and planist

Maria Yudina and their relationships with Stalin (S) (6403). \* 9.00 The Last Europeans. Hugo Young closes his examination of Britain in Europe with a look at

how Mrs Thatcher backed Jacques Delors's single market without realising his lederal ambitions (5799). 10.00 REA Kill Me Again (John Dahi 1989 US). Debut feature from the director of The Last Seduction

pays homage to the Forties film noir, with Joanne Whalley-Kilmer as his fernme fatale, robbing money from the Mob (S) (396132). 11.50 ELL Le Grand Chemin (Jean-Loup Hubert 1987 Fr). Drama set in the France of 1958, and starting Antoine Hubert as a young city poy who spends the summer with his mother's childless friends and discovers the beauty of rural Brittany. In French with English sub-titles (248836). To

### **ITV/Regions**

As Landon extent: 12.30 Dilemma: (83) 323 L10 Highway As Landon embels: 12,30 Delanting, 1831.50—1,10 Highlan, Millean Ref 123,9 (20) Embels 1831.50. 1,10 Highlan, Millean Ref 1831.20. 2,35 Not (10) (1831.20) S,10 Ref not the Police Mille 1831.20: 540 Prote Finish (46) 1799 (1,115 Delmotes (2) 10,269 (1,145 Biryond Razini 1812.20), 12,15 Filims harter (3) 10,279 (1,240 Hothyacus Razini 1819.20), 12,40 Hothyacus Razini 1819.20 (1,145 Right harter (1) 19,279 (1,145 Right harter (1) 19,

TWIE TEEX/TORISHIRE
As Landon entept: 12.25 I/me: Metroando (169/39), 1, Ma. The
Rest Grouthasters (66/039), 12.50 Medi. Regional News. Wallier (66/039), 12.56 Mem. Regional News. Wealther (66/039) 2.10
Film Earth Sau Mouage (66/039), 4.30 Mem. The Tumous Fire
(301) Medi. The World in New Cardino, 16/03 5.00 The Rector's
Whereby Show (200), 11.15 News Mem. (51/0354), 11.45 CucNegri (51/0229), 12.15 American (Judicions (51/0259), 11.25 Photos (66/0399), 1.35 Photos (66/0399), 3.55
Photos (51/0229), 4.15-5.30am Jobandor (51/0229).

CBITMAL As Landon except 12:30 Central Newcourts (52/35): 1.10 Centrol line (62/35): 1.20 Ms (con Sariat (6540): 2.00 Min. ong Sprit, Report (1794), 2.30 The Central Match - Live (1794), 1.30 Cett (1994), 1.245 Filter in Salingsia No Posta (33/36), 3.30 Cett (1994), Numer (33/36), 4.25 Jobbsper (33/36), 5.20 5.30 m Assan Eye (53/16).

NTV As Landon except: [2,25 Wept: Behal Ben 1960551] Water for the Chared from 1880799 [12,65 Eq., point figure, Machine (280799 [1,10 Wept: The Marketin beds 1960599] Make, Water Jacobs 1960599 [1,10 Wept: The Soughe of Tongs 1964510 [140 Hydes Gardening from 1864079] 2,00 Wept Student field (1964) Water The France of Tongs 117942 [2,30 Megt: Read-Phas 17] (4,51 Water Student Student) 7,000 [2,30 Megt: Flame Red Rever (1962)] Maker Student March (2,525 [4,15 Wept: March March 18,525 [4,15 Wept: March March 18,525 [4,15 Wept: March March 1965] Sept. (1965) S

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### Radio

Radio 1

197.6-99.800tz Fm 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 2.00 Black on Black Soul on Simolay Line 4.00 UK Top. 30 7.00 Queen: A Kind of Magic 8.00 Radio 1 Rock Show 10.00 Andy Kershaw 12.00 Mark Ton-deral 4.00-5.00am Cive Warren

Radio 2 #23-90 2M2b 9M0 "

7.00am Don Maclean 9.05
7.00am Don Maclean 9.05
Michael Aspel 10.30 Hayes on
5.00ay 12.00 Desmond Carrington
2.00 Benny Green 3.00 Devid Jacobs 4.00 Chris Stuart's Piano Par four 4.30 Sing South Simple four 4.30 Sing Southing Simple 5.00 Sunday Scapbox 7.00 Sir Ed-ward Heath 8.30 Sunday Hait Hour 9.00 Alan Keith 10.00 It's All in the Name 12.05 Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

Radio 3 190 2-92 AMIL: FM) 6.35am Open University. 7.00 Sacred and Profane. 8.55 Choice of Three.

9.00 Brian Koy's Sunday Morning Mozart: Symphony No 5 in 8 flat Mach: Over The Hills and Far Away. Composer of the Week. Copland: Suite: The Red Pony (excerpts). Artist of the Week. Assemble: Artist of the Veest, Stephen Cleobury (organ). Widor: Toccata (5ymphony No 5). Sach: Concerto fer 4 harpsichards in A minor (BWV 1055). Christopal de Morales: Parce mihi domine. Ireland: Concertino Pasterale. Gershwin: Riallo Ripples: Buzzing the Bee; Pastime Rag No 3. Glot de Dijon: Chenterar por mon coralge. German: Three Dances (Henry VIII). Marcello.

Oboe Concerto in C minor Ten-erner: Funeral Ikos. Francic Sym phony in 0 minor. Discs. 12.15 Music Natures. 1.00 News; Farrest Isle Songbook.

1.15 Farest isle. 1.45 The Sunday Concert, Lordon Symphony Orchestra Colin Davis. Berhoz: Dramabic Symphony: Romeo et Juliette. 3,35 Spirit of the Age. 4.35 Batten Plus.

5.45 The Sunday Feature. Britannia - The Soundtrack Album, 6,30 Shura Cherkossky (prano). Debussy: Estampes, Schumann: Fantasiestucke, Op 111, Liszt: 7.30 The Sunday Play: The Secret

10.00 Chair Works. 11,15 - 12,30am Record Review. Soprace Epsabeth Schwarzkopf.

Fairest Isle meets Cinema 100 in

52.49 60th Rt. 198th IV 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Something Understood. 6.55 Weather.

7.15 The Living World. 8.55 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers. 9.15 Letter from America.

31\_15 Mediumwave. 11.45 Four Corners. 12.15 Desert Island Discs. 12.55 Weather.
1.00 The Woold This Weekend.
1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time.
The teams tackle horticultural

questions.
2:30 The Classic Serial: Barnaby Rudge. (2/3). 3.30 Pick of the Week. 4.15 Analysis. 5.00 News; La Mia Italia. (1/4). 5.30 Poetry Please! Thomas Hardy. (1/2). 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Letters from Ireland, Maeye Binchy considers whether the Irish still have a way with words.

5.30 In Business. Peter Day reports on how Bangaiore in south

cn new sangators in sociularity india has become a world-class centre for hi-tech electronics.
7.00 Children's BBC Radio 4: Peter Pan. (2/4).
7.30 Artists and Admirers. (3/3).
8.00 (FM) FM: The Natural History Secretarions. Programme. 8.00 (LW) Suenos - World Spen-ish. 8.45 The French Expert-

ence. 9.15 Short Stories in French. 9.30 When in Italy. 8.30 (FM) Strong Impressions, rpt. Sir Roy Strong visits Ludlow, for-mer capital of Wales. 9.00 (FM) Vietnam Ravisited. 9.30 (FM) Costing the Earth.

10.00 News.

Choice

Britannia - The Soundtrack Album (5.45pm R3), a history of film music in Britain. And public service broadcasting meets commercial imperatives in Queen: A Kind of Magic (left) (7pm R1), a documentary about how the group recorded their last album. Warts- and-all doesn't look likely.

11.15 in Committee. 11.45 Seeds of Faith. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: Nightgown. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

Radio 5

K2010 3
K83,9981 W8
6.05am Straight Up 6.30 Brian
Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Sunday
with Mair 11.35 Special Assignment
12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 The
Big Byte 1.05 Hold the Front Page
1.35 You Cannot Be Serious! 2.30
Sunday Sport 6.05 Jim and the Doc
7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Acid Test
8.05 Head to Head 8.35 Word Up!
9.05 Dallyn Worldwide 10.05 Was 8.05 Head to Head 0.35 Wats 9.05 Dallyn Worldwide 10.05 Was Nagasalu Necessary? 10.35 Crime Desk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 Nightcall 2.05 Up All Night 5.00-6.00em Morning Reports

Classic FM (100.0-181.9MHz FM) 6.00am Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Classic Romance. 12.00 Celebrity Choica. 1.00 Alan Mann. 3.00 Masterclass. Elgan: Lutle Serenade in E minor. 4.00 Robert Booth. 7.00 Book Srowse. 8.00 Evening Concert. Haydri: Insanae at vanae curae. Janacek: Suite for Strings. Debussy Danse Sacree, Danse Profane. Faure: Cantique de Jean Racine. Dvo-rak: Serenade tor Strings. 10.00 Howard's Week. 12.00 Andre Leon. 4.00-6.00am Mark Griffiths.

· (1215, 1197-1280bi) (MR 105.869) (MR 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Greham Dene 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Howard Pearce 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

**World Service** (1954) (4) 1.00 World News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Animals of Power 1.30 Anything Goes 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Composer of the Month 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Jazz for the Asking 4.00 Newsdest 4.30 Off the Shelf: Middlemarch 4.45 Animals of Power 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Andy Kershaw.

### **Satellite**

7.00am Hour of Power (75774), 8.00 Ghoul-Lashed (533687), 10.30 Shoot! (80756), 11.00 Postcards from the Hedge (44316), 1.00 The Hit Mix (46497), 2.00 Dukes of Hazard (42774), 3.00 Star Trek: Voyager (55671), 4.00 WWF Action Zone

(5567 L), 4.00 WWF Action Zone (41478). 5.00 Great Escapes (1836), 5.30 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (1942), 6.00 The Simpsons (2655). 7.00 Beverly Hills 90210 (74294), 8.00 Star Trek. Voyager (83942), 9.00 Highlander (70478), 10.00 Renegate (73565), 12.00 Lh Law (83565), 12.00 She Wolf (94237), 1.00 Comic Strip Live (75237), 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Lone Play (75237). Long Play (75237). STY MOMES

6.00am Showcase (70887). 8.00 Barry Lyndon (1975) (408107), 11.00 The Butte (408107). 11.00 The Butter Cream Gang in the Secret of Trea-sure Mountain (1993) (50958). 12.30 Robin Hood: Men in Tights (1993) (50958). 2.05 A Christ-mas to Remember (1978) (958584). 4.00 Call of the Wild (1993) (958584). 5.50 Live and Let Die (1973) (958584). 8.00 The Beverly Hillsbittles (1993). (54756), 9.30 Robin Hood: Men in Tights (1993). (04/30), 9.50 MOON HOOSE Men m Tights (1993). (222478). 11.10 The Movie Show (457381), 11.40 Love Field (1992) (226229). 1.25 Chantilly Lace (1993) (618256). 3.05 Out of Datases (1993) (418256). of Darkness (1994) (618256). 4.35-6.00am The Butter Cream Gang in the Secret of Treasure Mountain (1993) (618256).

MOVIE CHARGEL 6.00am Quebec (1951) (70869). 8.00 Courage of Lassie (1946) (68768). 10.00 Dennis (1993) (43300). 12.00 A Young Connecti cut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1994) (54519). 2.00 Cheyenne Warrior (1994) (68687). 4.00 MacGyver: The Lost Treasure of Atlantis (1994) (9045). 6.00 Dennis (1993) (75923). 8.00 Sommersby (1993) (87768). 10.00 Assault at West Point (1994) (290519). 11.35 Jack the Bear (1993) (417039) 1.15 Saigon (1988) (648362), 3.00-6.00am Judg-

ment Night (1993) (648362). SALI MONIEZ GOLD 12.00pm Ame of Green Gables (1934) (648362), 1.20 Doctor Dollttle (1967) (548362), 3.45 ( Remember Marria (1948) (648362), 6.00 Hotel (1957). (48861). 8.00 The Big Easy

(1987) (54478), 10.00 Scandal (1989) (10590), 12.00 Theatre of Blood (1973) (305904), 1,45-3,30am From Hell to Victory (1979) (402782).

UK GOLD
7.00am Lassie (29527). 7.30 Going for Gold (29527). 8.00 Spring and Auturn (29527). 8.30 And Mother Makes Five (29527). 9.00 When the Boat Conies In (29527). 10.10 Dr Who (29527). 12.00 The Dawson Watch (29527). 12.30 it Ain't Haff Hot, Mum (29527). 1.00 Film: Without a Clue (29527). 5.15 Bergerac (29527). 6.20 Some Mothers Do Aive Em (29527). 7.00 The Paul Daniels Magic Show (29527). 9.00 Minder (29527). 10.05 The Bob Monkhouse Show (29527). 11.15 Special Branch (29527). 1.15 The Mad Death (29527). 1.100am Shopping at Night (29527). OK GOLD

Shopping at Night (29527). STLY SPORTS Std SPORTS
7.00am The Wirming Post Special:
The Hong Kong Cup (12045).
9.00 Ringside Boring (97010).
11.00 Watersports World (11316).
12.00 Goels on Sunday (44749).
1.30 Hold the Back Page (56279).
2.30 World Socca Magazine
(1554). 3.00 Footbell: Nottlingtom
Forest v Aston Villa (1584). 7.00
The Big League (30497). 9.00
NFL: Oeldand Raiders v Pittsburgh
Steelers (342942). 12.00-2.00am
Footbell Special (52275).

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00am Soccer Edia (50850) 11.00 Sports Unlimited (50850) 12.00 Rugby Union Update (50850), 2.00 Pool (50850), 5.00 Teachers Pub Ouiz (50850), 5.30 Snowboard Tour (50850), 6.00 Goff (50850), 7.00 Pool (50850), 1.00 Land Sportsport Tour (50850), 1.00 11.00 Snowboard Tour (50850). 11.30 Powerboa! World (60850). 12.00-1.00am Golf (50850). EUROSPURT

7.30am Freestyle Skiing (85294). 8.30 Alpine Skiing (83403). 9.30 Live Alpine Skiing (46958). 11.00 Cross-Country Skiing (84076). 12.30 Live Freestyle Skiing (19497). 2.00 Live Equestranism (25671). 4.00 Ski Jumping (98300). 5.00 Prime Time Boding Special (9497). 6.00 Snooker (62010). 7.00 Live Snooker (25S65). 9.00 Aerobles (27300), 10.00 Body Building (54367), 11.00 Marathon (21749), 12.00 Euro-

### **Pastimes**

### Chess William Hartston

No-one better understood the merits of had positions than Emanuel Lasker, who was world champion from 18**9**4 until 1921.

playing White against Tar-rasch in Berlin 1916, shows how badly he had been outplayed in the early stages: his bishop is dead wood, his Qside pawns stifled, and Black's knight is powerfully placed. Most players as White would resign themselves to defeat. For Lasker

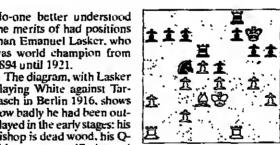
switching over to a6.) 6...hxg5 7.hxg5 f6 8.Rg1

the fight was just beginning.

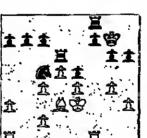
He continued 1.Rab1 Rf6
2.Rb5! b6 (2...Rxf1 first is better) 3.Rbb1 Rxf1 4.Rxf1
Rd8 5.h4! Rd6 6.g5! (Just in time to prevent Black's intended Rf6. Note how b6 was induced to stop the rook
switching over to a6.)

12.Kg1 Ni8 13.34 Rb6
14.Kd3 Nh7 15.Kc4. White's bishop is transformed and his pawns dangerously mobile. Play continued 15...Ng5 16.Rg4 Nf7 17.Kxc5
Nh6 18.Rg1 g5 19.a5 Rd6
20.Be2 Kg6 21.c4 Ng8
was induced to stop the rook
switching over to a6.)

24.Kd3 Nh7 15.Kc4. White's bishop is transformed and his pawns dangerously mobile. Play continued 15...Ng5 16.Rg4 Nf7 17.Kxc5
Nh6 18.Rg1 g5 19.a5 Rd6
20.Be2 Kg6 21.c4 Ng8
22.Bg4 Ne7 23.Be6 Ra6
23.Rb5 Rd6 25.Rb1 a6. fxg5? 9.Rxg5 Nd7? (realising hat 9...Kf6 10.Rg1 g5 is wonder Lasker was once strongly met by RfI+ and accused of witchcraft.



Rf5. Black switches plans. with disastrous results, t 10.e5! bxc5 11.Bb5 Kf6 12.Rg1 Nf8 13.a4 Rb6 14.Kd3 Nh7 15.Ke4. White's 26,Kc5 and the (breat of



### Perplexity Mixed doubles: The following sentence conceals three answers linked by a common theme: Lower ape figure meant nipple trap

All you have to do to find the answers is to group the six words into three pairs. then rearrange the letters within each pair.
Entries (by 21 December)
to: Saturday Pastimes, the Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL. A copy of the Chambers-Larousse Desk

awaits the winner. 25 November answer: Tony Blair: Each card represented a letter of the alphabet: \$2=a. \$3=b. through to  $\oplus A=z$ ; hearts and spades for capitals. Winner: Lesley Edens.

Reference Encyclopedia

### **Bridge** Alan Hiron

N-S game; dealer South North **◆**KJ9 TJ 103 0753

♣A K 10 7

East West **♠**763 **♦**52 ♥AKQ8642♥oone **₽**52 South **◆**A Q 1(184 C975 OAQ2

simple example of counting. As the jack of clubs had not bound to fall from West.

**₽**Q8

of eight - all, surprisingly in the Souths that the diamond fisame contract in a teams event - saw the point. South opened One Spade

Four Hearts. A double by North would have yielded a small but inadequate plus 0 J 10 9 8 6 4 score but, whether their part-nesse? Remember, the deci-◆J9643 nerships were playing five-sion in the diamond suit had card majors or not, all the only to be taken at trick 12. North players advanced to Four Spades. The early play from dumniv. Easi was known was straightforward and uni- to hold the missing jack of versal: declarer played off five clubs, so, when he followed rounds of trumps and fol-suit with the jack of diamonds. This deal should have been a lowed with the three top clubs. The king of diamonds was

but only three Souths in a field fallen, it seemed to most nesse represented the only hope. West took his king and had a heart left to defeat the and West pre-empted with contract by two tricks. Can you follow the reason-

ing of the successful declarers who scorned the diamond fi-When the diamond was led



### The big picture **Mutiny on the Bounty** Sat 8pm C4

The dissent behind the cameras almost rivalled what they were filming in Lewis Milestone's 1962 version of Mutiny on the Bounty. Marlon Brando was at his most primadonna-ish for this re-make of the 1935 Charles Laughton/Clark Gable classic, demanding endless re-writes and getting through no fewer than three directors for a lavishly-shot work that ultimately bombed at the box-office. However, if you can ignore his preposterous accent, Brando makes a suitably indigitant Fretcher Christien. opposite Trevor Howard's Bligh.

### **Television preview**

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert



Tx Sat 8.05pm BBC2 Jack Dee's Saturday Night Sat 9pm ITV The Wilderness Years Sun 7.20pm BBC2 In Search of James Bond with Jonathan Ross Sun IOpm ITV An Evening with Sir Peter Ustinov Sun 10.15pm BBCI

watch it last thing at night before bed. Thus relaxed, type might be good for a gag, but it seems a dangeryou're in an ideal state to test your pulse and brainous idea for a series. wave movement - and if you find the heartbeat raised, Having said that, Sir Peter Ustinov is probably even the mind racing and generally unfit for sleep, you know you've been watching a winner. If, on the other hand,

more deadpan than Jack Dee, but then An Evening with Sir Peter Ustinov (Sun BBC1) is not exactly a whoop-'em-up kind of show. It sounds like one of those cheesy celeb love-ins that ITV inflicts on us from time to time, but the truth is that this is Ustinov's well-honed, welltravelled road show - a sort of extended after-dinner speech - playing to an appreciative paying public io Toronto. His urbane, pass-the-port autobiographical vignettes are peppered with enough showbiz anecdotes (Gielgud, Olivier, Alec Guinness) to dazzle the punters, and includes a particularly fine imitation of Adolf Hitler's body language.

Better an evening with Sir Peter Ustinov than one bour in Search of James Bond with Jonathan Ross (Sun ITV), in which Ross proves once again what a resource-

A o effective – if potentially exhausting – way of testThat – and the fact that deadpan Jack Dee is next to
like a trampoline. At its core, this is a bog standard
location-report-cum-movie-plug, but Ross has obviously been handed a first-class contacts book, as he herds all five James Bonds before a camera. Yes, even poor old George Lazenby, the Australian who played the ulti-mate Englishman and now speaks pure Californian and who came to bitterly regret ever quitting that tux.
The excellent The Wilderness Years (Sun BBC2)

continues by documenting one of the most shameful periods in the Labour Party's history - the six mooths in 1981 when Toxieth and Brixton burned, a People's March for Jobs snaked its way through Britain and Mrs Thatcher's deeply unpopular government looked as tottery as Monsieur Juppe's does today. And what did the Labour Party do? They put all their energy into a deputy leadership contest between Tony Benn and Denis Healey.

Finally, Tx (Sat BBC2) has an intriguing tale of what happened when Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution. hit the Beijing Central Conservatory, and students of Each and Desthover became revolutionary Rev Guards. ful journalist he is, stretching that material to break-ing point, and then bouncing up and down on it. The veneer of civilisation has rarely looked thinner.



### The big race Ski Sunday Sun 4.25pm BBC2

David Vine, the man with the best job in television, dons his gaudy anorak and goes downhill again for a new series of Ski Sunday. Vine, who has presented the show since 1978 but is said not to clip on the skis himself, is this week sleping off to Val D'Isere for the opening men's downhill of the European season. The camera attached to a skier's ankle gives a good impression of the bravery (or recklessness) required. Now his brother Martin has retired, Graham Bell (above) is left alone to carry the manne. of Valiant British Loser.

### Saturday Television and Radio

### BBC<sub>1</sub>

7.25 News; Weather (5656731).
7.30 Children's BBC: SuperTed. 7.40 Willy Fog. 8.05 The Addams Family. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman. Clark finally

asks Lois for a date (R) (1921538), \*
9.15 Live and Kicking. Paul Bradley (Nigel from EastEnders) and Phillip Schofield guest (S) (84268731).

12.12 Weather (8770489). 12.15 Grandstand, 12.20 Football Focus, 12.55 Racing from Haydock: 1.00 the Petros Handicap Steeple Chase. 1.10 News. 1.20 Racing from Haydock: 1.30 the Tota Multibet Handicap Hurdle Race.

1.40 Skiing: early action from Val d'Isere in France 1.55 Racing from Haydock: 2.00 the Tommy Whittle Sleeple Chase. 2.10 Skiing, 2.25 Racing from Haydock: 2.30 the BBC Television 40th Anniversary Handicap Hurdle Race. 2.45 Rugby League: live coverage of one of the top quarterfinal ties in this season's Regal Trophy. Kick-off at 3.00. 3.45 Football Half-Times 3.55 Rugby League, 4.40 Final Score (37839880). 5.20 News, Weather (6898793). 5.30 Local News, Weather (631118).

5.35 Dad's Army. The Walmington-on-Sea Spitfire Fund Camival (R) (178083). \*
6.05 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. African dance troupe Adzido are the guests (S) (685731). \*

7.00 Noel's House Party (\$) (956151). 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Michael Ball is Anthea's little helper (222064). 8.05 Casualty, A boxing coach's irresponsibility leads to

grief, and a lovesick student nearly kills her ex-boyfriend (S) (771712). \* 8.55 News and Sport; Weather (Followed by National

Lottery Update) (538422). 9.15 She Says She's Innocent (Charles Correl) 1991 US). Good, grab-'em tabloid title for nononsense telly movie fare about a pregnant mum (Katey Sagal) and her teenage daughter, who is suspected of murder after one of her school friends

is killed in a feud (S) (908278), \* 10.45 Match of the Day. Chelsea vs Newcastle United, which just so happens to be a rehearsal for the FA Cup Third Round (S) (6758828). 11.50 The Stand Up Show. With Northern Ireland

cornedian Owen O'Neill (S) (222248). 12.20 Beneath the Planet of the Apes (Ted Post 1970 US). The first sequel to Planet of the Apes was poorer than the Chariton Heston original, but, compared to what came after, a masterpiece. James Franciscus plays another astronaut out of time, who crash-lands amongst the chimps (551107).

1.55 Weather (2221720). To 2.00am. Wales on Saturday. NI: 5.00pm Northern Ireland Results. 5.30 Inside Ulster News. 1.55

### BBC 2

you find yourself staring at your fingernails and won-

dering if they need a snip... well, you know what you've

Letterman and Don't Forget Your Toothbrush are both winners on this basis. Don't Give Up the Day Job and now Jack Dee's Saturday Night (Sat ITV), ensure a

thorough manicure. It's not for lack of talent. Satur-

day Night is a variety show. The link man is Jack Dee.

and the first guests include the dance troupe Stomp,

comedian Lee Evans and the pop group Pulp. It's the

backward-looking variety-show format that's a prob-

lem. Presumably - as the title suggests - this is a nod

to Sunday Night at the Palladium, but television variety

has come on a long way from those truste half roots -

and the effect is distancing by modern standards.

been watching, and it doesn't smell nice.

8.05 Open University: Preparatory Maths. 8.20 The Developing World. 8.45 Traffic Futures. 9.10 British Car Transplants. 9.35 Women In Science and Technology (1401731).
10.00 Chanalya, Drama series (6585165).

10.40 Video Byte. Asian pop (\$) (6795199). 10.50 Network East (\$) (5256644). 11.20 Bollywood or Bust (\$) (7677286). 11.50 Film 95 (S) (7155170).

12.30 Fun 95 (3) (7133170).
12.20 By Day, by Night (R) (8758267).
12.30 The Europeans (54227118).
12.40 ELM Saturday Matinée: Assault on a Queen (Jack Donohue 1966 US). Frank Sinatra displays again his lack of discemment at taking movie roles, with this lame robbery caper in which Sinatra and chums refloat a Nazi U-Boat and use it to plunder an ocean liner (91739847).

2.25 SABLI Saturday Matinée: Robin and the Seven Hoods (Gordon Douglas 1964 US). Frank Sinatra and his Rat Pack cronies – Dean Martin, Blng Crosby and Sammy Davis Jr - loosely translate the Robin Hood story to Prohibition-era Chicago (122538).

4.25 Best of Esther. Cross-dressers (R) (S) (9764731). 4.55 The Oprah Winfrey Show (S) (6755606). \* 5.35 TOTP2 (S) (989903).

6.20 One Man and His Dog. The first semi-final in the singles competition. Can't wait for the formation doubles (S) (119373). \* 7.05 News and Sport; Weather (568118). \* 7.20 Assignment. Exclusive interview with Chechnya's

President Dudayev, one year after Boris Yeltsin sent his troops in (884524). \* 8.05 Tx. Classical musicians who became Red Guards. See Preview, above (8125248). \*

9.30 Screen Two: A Very Open Prison. Another showing for Guy Jenkin's enjoyable drama – conceived, commissioned, shot and screened in just eight weeks – in which Tom Wilkinson's Home Secretary struggles to secure his job after three high-security inmates escape his new highsecurity, flagship jail (R) (S) (952267). \*

10.25 Have I Got News for You. PJ O'Rourke and Craig

Charles from last night (S) (301606). 10.55 Later with Jools Holland. Van Morrison is a guest

12.00 The Cotton Club (Francis Coppola 1984 US). Visually stunning evocation of the Prohibition era, which certainly stunned the actors - Richard Gere, Gregory Hines, Bob Hoskins – who walk about with the dazed expressions of stars who know they are secondary to the set and the dance routines (38276749). \* To 2.10am.

REGIONS. Wales: 7.20pm Making Capital.7.40 Tales from the Capital. 7.45 A Bute of a Place. B.10 Zobaczyc Cardiff. 8.55 I Am What I Am. 9.50 Capital Questions. 10.40 The Welshman, the Day and the Movie. 10.50 Film: Tiger Bay. 12.35 Tx. 1.55 Later with Jools Holland. NI: 6.20pm One

### ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News; Weather. 6.10 Re:Win.d. 7,10 Barney and Friends. 7,45-8,55 Saturday Oisney. Look back at the highlights of 1995. 8.55 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (8707880).

9.25 Scratchy & Co. Including at 10.30 Take That live at GMX. Guests include Suggs and Byker Grove's Justine McKenzie (S) (68597170).

11.30 The Chart Show (R) (S) (84335).

12.30 The chart show (R/ (3) (04333).

12.30 Speakeasy. Teenage advice show. This week, restrictive parenting – and what happens when love gets in the way of friendship. Plus, England cricketer Dominic Cork talks about his birth mark

(S) (68267).

1.00 News, Weather (26285977). \*

1.05 Local News, Weather (26284248). \*

1.10 Movies, Games and Videos. The American

President previewed (1434606). 1.45 Cartoon Time (73324712). 1.50 The Munsters Today. Eddie is granted a wish (S) (36455809).

2.20 The A-Team The boys find themselves in the Amazon basin, which is news enough to make an ecologist shudder (R) (9828538). 3.15 Airwolf (R) (837248). 4.15 Speakeasy Does the Business. Emma Forbes

takes a look at alleged "dream jobs". This week, working at a football club - Charlton Athletic Football Club, to be exact (S) (878460).
4.45 News; Sports; Weather (1987083). \*
5.05 Local News, Sport (6811644). \*
5.10 New Baywatch. Mitch takes the team to Hawaii,

where Matt ends up poisoned (S) (6460489). 6.15 Gladiators (S) (825538). \*
7.15 Blind Date Esther and Dan report back from

Iceland (Including Lottery Result) (S) (814422). \*
8.15 Raise the Roof, A cottage in the Cotswolds for the winner (S) (137625). 8.45 News; National Lottery Update; Weather (543354). \*

9.00 Jack Dee's Saturday Night. New "variety extravaganza" with Lee Evans, Pulp, Robert Palmer, Stomp and Coronation Street stars Thelma Barlow and Peter Baldwin. See Preview,

above (796557). \* 9.45 Robocop 2 (Irwin Kershner 1990 US). This time, the state-of-the-art copper is fuelled by the brain of the chief baddie from the original. A witty, just as violent but not so well-structured sequel, starring, once again, Peter Weller and Nancy Allen (S) (78122064). \*

11.50 There's Only One Brian Moore. 1970s football nostalgia (S) (567793).
12.50 American Gladiators (S) (7476294).

1.40 The Big E (S) (4032497).

3.25 Best of British Motorsport (80587942). 📶 Today it's Me., Tomorrow You (Tonino Cerv 1968 lt). Meaty spaghetti western with Brett Halsey and all the usual ingredients (928403).

### Channel 4

6.05 Sesame Street (R) (8832539). 7.05 Ovide (R) (4331170). 7.15 Sonic the Hedgehog (R) (2964828). 7.40 Wowser. Animation (R) (5679248). 8.00 Trans World Sport (79712).

9.00 The Morning Line. Horse-racing magazine (S) (61538). 10.00 Blitz! American football magazine (21373). 11,00 Gazzetta Football Italia. Italian football magazine

12.00 Sportraits. Of Arthur Ashe and George Best (R) (40373). 12.30 The Great Maratha (2501373).

12.55 The Late Late Show, With Van Morrison, and Martin Clunes and Neil Morrisey from Men Behaving Badly (S) (9199847). 1.40 Channel 4 Racing from Cheftenham. Including

tha Gold Cup, with a £65,000 prize, at 2.35pm.
Plus the 1.55, 3.10 and 3:45 races. Commentary from John Francome, Jim McGrath and Lesley Graham (S) (91356996). 4.05 Vegetable Plots. Short Stories documentary

about vegetable allotments in Ponders Green, east London (R) (5554606). \* 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S) (7982847). \* 6.30 Right to Reply. Questions are raised about the participation of Fred and Rosemary West's . children in TV documentaries. And is the BBC

right to axe Anne and Nick? (S) (538). \*
7.00 A Week in Politics. Paddy Ashdown on why his party isn't doing better in the polls – and how serious are Labour about Scottish devolution? (6606). 8.00 Mutiny on the Bounty (Lewis Milestone

1962 US). Marlon Brando is Fletcher Christian and Trevor Howard Captain Bligh. See The Big Picture, above (53914151). \* 11.15 REM: Rough Cut. Following rock band REM as

they prepare for a world tour, a tour which starts badly and gets worse as Michael Stipe, Peter Buck, Mike Mills and Bill Berry in turn find themselves hospitalised for various complaints. As rockumentary it's fine, but - produced by the boys themselves - the film doesn't have the objectivity to go much beyond that (S) (896267).

12.35 Doorned Megalopolis. Kato plans to destroy Tokyo by Impregnating Yukan Tatsumi with the seed of his hatred. Good luck (S) (8997836). 1.30 Funky Squad. The spoof 1970s coppers on a

mission to intercept an ex-con who has a score to ttle (S) (95590). 1

2.00 Fye! Art Mann introduces another round-up of the entertainment world in America. Tonight, there's a profile of Jodie Foster, a look at Gianni Versace's ifestyle, music from Jaime Watters and a preview **of Get Shorty with John Travolta (49958)** 2.30 Beat Specials Music from American hip-hop stars

Spearhead, and Tricky, who plays his new single, "Pumpkin" (SJ (51590). To 3.30am.

### **ITV/Regions**

ANLIN As London except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (68267), 1.10 A World of Wonder (44688373), 1.40 The Big Byte (36468373), 2.05 Films Carry on Cowboy (482557), 3.45 Airwolf (869847), 5.20 New Baywatch (9803712), 11.50 Films Without a Trace (30204170), 1.55 American (Salistons (1622382), 2.50 The Big E (4081213), 3.40 BPM (9934590), 4.35 America's Top Ten (54909478), 5.00-5.30 am Movies, Games and Videos (40010).

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TYNE TEES/TORKSHIRE As Landon except 12:30 Movies, Garnes and Videos (68267). 1.10 sesQuest DSV (7285538). 2.05 Film: The Amazing Mr Blunden (196248). 3.50 Ahwoli (2467809). 5.10 Tine Full Time (3738286). Wrks. Someline (3738286), 5.20 New Bayweldn (5903712). 11.50 Short Story Chema (240644). 12.20 Werdfine Wolds (2521855). 1.15 Knigtt Rider (3561861). 2.10 Chech (6723132). 2.40 BPM (7534792) 3.40 The Little Picture Snow (9934590), 4.35-5.30am Que the Music (9537584).

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.30 Heartland (68267). 1.10
The Mursters Today (44688373). 1.40 Carton Time (73325441). 1.45 Movies, Games and Videos (805489). 2.15 WCW Worldwide Wrestling (8082712). 2.55 Airwolf (3445335). 3.50 Trumder in Paradise (2467809). 5.10 Central Match-Goals Extra (3738286). 5.20 New Baywatch (9803712). 11.50 Boding (567793). 3.50 Jobfinder (7708652). 5.20-5.30 am Aslan Eye (1032720).

As London except: 12.30 West: No Naked Flames (68267), Wales: The Electric Chair (68267), 1.40 Carbon Time (73325441), 1.45 Knight Rider (849083), 2,45 Thunder in Paradise (830335), 3,45 Airwolf (869847), 5,15 Cartoon Time (6802996), 5,20 New Baywatch (9803712), 11,50-12,50am Tropical Heat (567793).

As London except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (68267), 1.10 A World of Wonder (44688373), 1.40 CoFebry 1.10 A World Victor (440835/3), 1.40 CoFebring (5545995), 2.10 Big Net (1824035), 2.35 Carbon (89381/70, 2.50 Time Trax (3446064), 3.45 Kright Rider (969847), 5.20 New Beywelch (9803712), 11.50 Film: Without a Trace (30204170), 1.55 American Ican Glariators (1622382). 2.50 The Big E (4081213). 3.40 BPM (9934590). 4.35 America's Top Ten (54909478). 5.00-5.30am Freescreen (40010).

As London except: 12.30 Movies, Garnes and Videos (68267), 1.10 Wanted Deed or Alive (44688373). (68507), 1.10 Wantes Deed of Aire (446883/3), 1.40 The Muristers Today (36458996), 2.10 Film: A Hobo's Christmas (472170), 3.50 Knight Rid-er (2467809), 5.20 New Baywatch (9803712), 11.50-12.50am Tropical Heat (567793).

As C4 except: 11.00 The Great Aussie Balloon Race (18809), 12.30 Excepted (2501373), 4.05 Equinox (5554606), 5.05 Brookside (7982847), 6.30 Holyaeks (538), 7.00 Newyddion (554915), 7.15 Noson Lawen (8/2064), 8.15 Tu Fewn Tu Fas (104557). 9.15 Hel Straeon (124/151), 9.45 Short Stories (123422), 10.15 The Queen Phenomenon (184793).

### Radio

### Radio 1

(97 6-99.SMHz FMD 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 0ave Pearce 12.30 Danny Baker 2.30 Jo Whiley 4.30 Black on Black: In Concert 5.00 Black on Black: Sound System 7.00 Lovegroove Dance Party with Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Essential Tour Live m Hastings 4.00-6.00am Radio 2

### :38-90.2MH-700

168 97 2011; 100 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Judi Spiers 12.00 Hayes on Saturday 1.30 Change at Oglethorpe 2.00 Martin Kelner on Saturday 4.00 Nick Barraon Saturday 4.00 Nick Barra-clough 5.00 Gloria Upstaged! 6.00 Reading Music 7.00 Cornedy Classics 7.30 Scrooge - The Musi-cal 10.00 David Jacobs 10.30 Shendan Morley 12.05 Sue Mc-Garry 4.00-6.00am Mo Dutta Radio 3

7.00am Record Review. With Jonathan Swain. Rossini: Overture: The Barber of Seville. Rachmaninov: Sonata No 2 in ter m A, Op 51 No 5, Walton: Symphony No 2 (Bournemouth SO/Litton).

9.00 Building a Library, To cele-brate her 80th buthday, John Sleane surveys all the available recordings by soprano Elisabeth Schwerzkopf. 10.15 Record Release Szy-

manowski: Sonata, Op 9. Janacek: String Quartet No 1 (Kreutzer Sonata). Prokofiev:

12.00 Private Passions, Michael Berkeley talks to Marjone Wallace, director of the mental health charity SANE. 1.00 News; Young Screenwriters
Hollywood In the 90s. (3/5).
1.25 Vintage Years. Richard Wig-

more concludes his explora of the recorded legacy of the German tenor Fritz Wunderlich Schumarn: Oichterliebe, Schu bert: Die Schone Mullerin (Hubert Giesen, plano), Plus extracts from Mozart's Die Zauberliote, Strauss's Daphne and Lieder by Beethoven end

3.25 Young Artists' Forum. Anna Markland Introduces a final selection of music from respected young performers which in-

### Choice

the Met (6.30pm R3) opens Rise and Fall of the City of return: the ever-popular Opera this season celebrating 25 years

cludes the first performance of a BBC Commission by Julian Philips, played by the Chinook Clarinet Quartet; Debussy and Chopin performed by Jam Walton (cello) and Daniel Grimwood (piano); and music by Bach (arr. Busoni), Chopin and Albeniz performed by piand Alberia performed by p. anist Christian McKay, During the interval Andrew Sparling process from the viewpoint of

the composer.

5.00 Lazz Record Requests.

5.45 Music Matters. Ivan Hewett surveys books about the life of Henry Purcell released in his tercentenary year. 6.30 Live from the Met. The Rise

and fail of the City of Ma-hagonomy. Kurt Weil's opera in three acts based on the text text by Berthold Brecht. Cast includes Heiga Demesch (mez-20), Kenneth Riegel (tenor). Timothy Noble (baritone), Teresa Stratas (soprano), Gary Lakes (tenor), Richard Versalle (tenor), Alan Held (baritone), Chorus and Orchestra of the

Metropolitan Opera, New York/James Lavine. See Choice. 9.55 Bach Cello Suites. Suite No 4 in E flat (BWV 1010). Introduced and played by Yo-Yo Ma. 10.25 Blue Skies. Steve Jones magnetism have captured the nagination of both scientists

is joined by Alyn Shipton to jazz bookshelf.

Radio 4 (92.4-94.608); 74. 198(8); 197 6.00am News Briefing, 6.10 Farming Today.

new season of operas Live from tonight with Kurt Weill's (left) The Mahagonny. All your old favourites Quiz, suave announcer Peter Allen, and chief conductor James Levine.

9.00 News

considers how the properties of

12.30 - 1.00am The Hi-De-Ho Man. Alyn Shipton traces the early progress of bandleader Cab Calloway. (1/6).

6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 9.05 Sport on 4.

9.30 Breakaway. 10.00 News; Loose Ends. 11.00 News; The Week In Westminster. With Michael White of The Guardian. 11.30 Europhile. David Watter presents a profile of the Greek prime minister Andreas Papan-

12.00 Money Box. 12.25 I'm Sorry | Haven't a Clue. 12.55 Weather.

1.00 News.
1.10 Any Questions? Panellists
are Sir Nicholas Lyell MP; Ken
Livingstens MP, Chris Hassins,
chairman of Northern Roots; and Ann Leslie, special correspondent for the Dally Mail.

1.55 Shipping Forecast.

2.00 News; Any Answers?

2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Tunes

of Glory.

4.00 News; 5trong Impressions
Sir Roy Strong travels to the
market town of Ludlow, the
former capital of all Wales. 4.30 Science Now. 5.00 File on 4.

5.40 Queenan Country. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 We 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending. 6.50 Ad Lib. Robert Robinson learns the tricks of the stunt-man's trade.

7-20 Kaleidoscope Faature. Ian McMillan reflects on the lickle-ness of popularity and fashion in 20th-century artistic life. 7-20 Exhibit Niver Inc. 7.50 Saturday Night Theatre:
Journey to the Centre of the
Earth.
9.20 Music in Mind. 9.50 Ten to Ten. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 Word of Mouth, Russell

10.45 Eight of the Best, Geography teacher Marjorie Roby ex-amines the mysteries of glaciers with her class. 11.00 Personal Records. Ray-mond Blanc talks about his

record collection. (2/6).
11.30 The Chronicles of Clovis. Adapted from stories by the Edwardian writer Sald. (5/6). 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: Andrzej.

the Polish Poet by Carl Tighe. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

(133, 909kilz lilin) 6.05am Dirty Tackie 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Kershaw and Whittaker 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 Crime Desk 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 Sportscall 1.05 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 7.35 Straight Up 8.05 Clear the Air 8.35 Dallyn on Saturday 10.05 The Treatment 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 After Hours 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM

Official Print Pri America. 7.00 World Opera Sesson. Verdi: Il Trovatore. Leontyne Price, Franco Corelli, Giulietta Simionata, El-tore Bastlanini, Vienna Philinamonic Orchestra/Herbert von Karaian, 10.00 Classic Quiz. 12.00 Andre Leon. 4.00 Classic Countdown, 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstone.

Virgin Radio 0215, 1197-1250klt NW 105.8NRt AU 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ & Jono's Greatest Hits. 10.00 Richard Skinner 2.00 Mark Forrest (Including Virgin Crunchie Album Chart) 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00 -6.00am Howard Pearce

**World Service** 

(1984b) W 1.00 World News 1.10 Press Re-view 1.15 Soundbyte 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.50 Write On 2.00 Newsday 2.30 The Ed Stewart Show 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Fourth Estate 3.45 Science View TOUTH ESIGN 5.45 SCIENCE VIEW
3.50 Waveguide 4.00 Newsdesk
4.30 Short Story 4.45 The Multi-track Sessions 5.00 Newsday
5.30 Praise of God.

### **Satellite**

7.00am Postcards from the Hedge (55354). 9.00 Ghoul-Lashed (886267), 11,30 Shooti (29828), 12,00 WWF Mania (55052), 1,00 Wornan (47847). 3.00 Growing Pains (5286). 3.30 Family Ties (2828). 4.00 Kung Fu, the Legend Continues (23921). 5.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (6538). 6.00 WWF Superstars (55016), 7.00 Robocop (59557), 8.00 VR.5 (35977), 9.00 Coos (23985), 9.30 The Serial Killer: (92581). 10.00 Dream On (78170). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (94118). 11.00 The Movie Show (73480), 11.30 Forever Knight (11731), 12.30 WKRP in Cincinnati (96132), 1.00

Saturday Night Live (78942). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (7181565).

SAT NOVIES
6.00am Showcase (56880). 8.00
Farewell My Lovely (1944) (38199).
10.00 Toys (1992) (97793). 12.00
To My Daughter (1991) (11422).
2.00 Visions of Terror (1994)
(957624). 3.40 Death on the Nile
(1978) (26401441). 6.00 Toys
(1992). Fantasy with Robin Williams
(52644). 8.00 A Perfect World
(1993). Drams starting Keyin Costner (32549). 8.00 A PERGET WORD (1993). Drams staming Kevin Costner (542286). 10.30 The Chase (1994). Action cornedy starring Charile Sheen (89625). 12.00 Hollywood Dreams (1992). Erotic drams (45749). 1.30 Royal Plash (1975) (956039). 3.10-4.45am The Vernon Johns Story (1994) (77071229).

MOVIE CHANGE

6.00am Once Upon e Honeymoon (1942) (54422). 8.00 Lassie Come Home (1943) (29441). 10.00 The Snow Queen (1993) (95335). 12.00 Groundhog Day (1993) (19064). 2.00 The Philadelphia Experiment (1984) (30422). 4.00 Whose Child is This? (1993) (2712). 6.00 Grounding Day (1993). Cornedy star-ring Bill Murray (50286), 8,00 Un-dercovar Blues (1993). Cornedy adventure with Dennis Quaid and Flona Shaw (55731). 10.00 Tina: What's Love Got to Do With H (1993). The life story of rock idol Tina Turner, played by Angala Bassett (15625). 12.00 Mor Money (1992). Cornedy starring Darmon Wayans (100497). 1.35 Blueberry Hill (1987) (955300). 3.10-4.40am Shattered Trust (1993) (77999671).

cover a baby in the desert and decide to take care of it (32828). 8.00 Foot-

SKY MOVIES GOLD 4.00pm Sunset Boulevard (1950) (9422). 6.00 Three Godinthers (1948). Three hardened robbers dis-

mayhem in a God-fearing town by organizing a high school prom (37373). 10.00 The Exercist III (1990). Honor starring George C Scott (456064). 11.55 Point Blank (1967). (364064). 1.30-3.20am Mississippi Mermaid (1969) (770671).

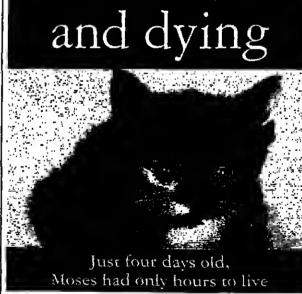
7.00am Lassie (1871002). 7.30 Go-ing for Gold (1867809). 8.00 War-ship (2607539). 9.00 Secret Army (3831915). 10.00 Neighbours Om-nibus (1250422). 12.00 Film: The Lady Vanishes (7233170). 1.40 Th Best of Top of the Pops (5324118). 2.15 EastEnders Omnibus (21927118), 5.00 Doctor at the Top (3099828), 5.35 Fall and Rise of (3099828), 5.35 Fall and Rise of Reginald Perin (4115354), 6.10 Franch Fields (8567644), 6.40 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (9691083), 7.10 The Last Song (1454151), 7.40 Bread (7956847), 8.10 The Bill Originals (56353660), 9.20 Fign: Educating Rita (79886248), 11.25 Fign: Get Carter (30673793), 1.30 The Album Show (2229805), 2.30-7.00am Shopping at Night (5644855).

7.00am Gillette World Sport (86248). 7.30 Racing News (98083). 8.00 The Big League (63809). 10.00 Ring-side Borlog (37996). 12.00 Sports Saturday (6208538). 5.30 Gillette World Sport Special (5373). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (2286). 6.30 Rugby Union: The South West v Western Semon. (6982). 8.30 Ringside Box-lar on the Boxel (2200395) at on-Samoa. (89828). 8.30 kingside sox-ling on the Road. (7200286). 12.00 Hold the Back Page (28836). 1.00 Ford Scorpio Gott USA (88855). 3.00-5.00am Ringside Boxing (32836).

7.00am Soccer AM (5942267). 11.00 WWF Raw (8270624). 12.00 Ford Scorpio Coff USA (9467625). 2.00 Pool (1977858), 5.00 Angling Adventures (4502083), 5.30 International Motorsport (8989070), 7.00 Pool (4526354), 11.00 Watersports World (7725539). 12.00 Gillette World Sport Special (3542923). 12.30-1.00am World of Speed and Beauty (8539942).

7.30am Eurofun (83151). 8.00 Baskethall (94793), 8.30 Live Cross-Country Sking (71286), 9.30 Live Alpine Sking (25083), 11.00 Live Cross-Country Ski 12:063). 11:00 Live Cross-Country Sid-ing (99489). 12:30 Sking (87460). 2:00 Cross-Country Sking (52793). 3:00 Alpine Sking (45880). 4:00 Ski Jumping (64915). 5:00 Snooker (18373). 7:00 Live Snooker (84880). 9:00 Live Supersous (61828). 10:30 Althetics (14557). 11:00 All Sports (80064). 12:00-12:30em Informational Motorsous Record (19132). Motorsports Report (19132).

Alone



A gardener found this riny, defenceless soul, abandoned in the rushes of a pond. Hungry, frozen and afraid, it seemed like e hopeless case. But his finder drawn four hours to deliver him into the welcoming arms of Blue Cross.

Lyn the deputy manager hand-fed him through the night until he fell asleep, warm and safe in the crook of her neck. Under our watchful gaze he gets bigger every day. But to

treat, feed and care for Moses cost around £45. Your gift of

£2 a month could help save another tiny life like Moses. If you want to help animals like Moses please return the coupon below

Please send me more information about how I can help animals like Moses by becoming a Blue Cross Friend.

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